

THE JOURNAL

Friday, February 4, 2005

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Sports Gaucho girls post soccer wins over Hercules, Richmond [C1]

Arts & Leisure Young Oakland singer is a sensation in Mandarin [C8]

Soggy lawn gets down time

Overuse of new Memorial Park turf and water rains are partly to blame, officials say

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The metal fence prohibiting people from walking on a swath of grass on the south side of Memorial Park is damaged by use of the area for athletics and exacerbated by recent

rains, city officials say.

It's possible that students from nearby Albany High School wearing cleats damaged the turf, Albany maintenance supervisor John Medlock said. The fencing may remain at the park through the spring, to allow the turf to recover and avoid further damage.

"Anytime you put up a nice beautiful lawn anywhere in a public facility someone's going to want to play on it," Medlock said. "That's what's happened — it has been used and that impacts it and now in order to save the

lawn and keep it healthy, we have to protect it."

Orange mesh fencing was erected around the damaged turf in November, about seven months after the first phase of park renovations were completed.

In May 2003 the City Council authorized an agreement with Castro Valley-based contractor Grade Tech Inc. to complete the renovations, which included a new playground, turf and drainage, for \$503,800.

A January 2004 report to the

council said the project was 73 days behind schedule and \$150,625 over budget. The renovations ultimately cost \$668,570, said Barry Whittaker, the city's public works project manager.

Former Albany public works supervisor Dana Milner said he expected it would cost several thousand dollars more to fix the drainage.

"It didn't drain properly and it filled up like a big lake, not a big lake, but a pond," Milner

See **LAWN**, Page A8



FENCES SURROUND a section of turf damaged by recent rains at Memorial Park in Albany. The park, including its drainage system, had recently been renovated.

Fund-raising events proposal debated

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

KENSINGTON — About 30 residents criticized a proposed county ordinance intended to govern fund-raising events held at private homes during a Tuesday night meeting of the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council.

The county community development department proposed the ordinance in response to legislation submitted by State Sen. Don Perata, D-Oakland, last year.

Senate Bill 952 would have prevented local land use agencies from adopting ordinances that require permits for events held on residential properties that benefit nonprofit or charitable organizations.

"This legislation was subsequently withdrawn with the understanding that the county would address the issue at the local level," according to a letter by Catherine Kutsuris, the county's community development department deputy director.

Under the proposed ordinance, an event permit would be required for "organized assemblages" depending on how many people are invited in relation to the size of the residential lot.

"An administrative event permit will be issued," according to

the draft ordinance, "unless the zoning administrator finds that the proposed use will unreasonably interfere with parking or traffic flow on public streets or cause excessive noise, or be detrimental to the public health or safety."

Kensington residents are eyeing the ordinance closely as neighbors have complained about fund-raising events held at concert promoter Danny Scher's Coventry Road home for several years.

The county fined Scher \$800 for failing to get permits for three fund-raising concerts he held in his backyard amphitheater in 2003 and 2004.

At the meeting, residents said the concerts — using a professional sound system and featuring entertainers such as pop star Bonnie Raitt — were inappropriate in a residential neighborhood, creating traffic and noise problems and violating their privacy.

Resident Jack Walker said he had experienced no problems during 25 years living on Coventry Road until Scher's concerts began. The concerts were annoying and lowered property values, he said.

Residents applauded the county zoning administrator, which last week turned down Scher's appeal

See **EVENTS**, Page A8



GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF

Blooming greenway

MARIA BLOOMS along the Ohlone Greenway in El Cerrito under the watchful eye of gardener Gil Patchett, who began planting wildflowers near Baxter Creek 10 years ago. Patchett spends an hour everyday tending to the flowers that bloom with only natural rainfall. Nearly 30 varieties of wildflowers should reach their full bloom in late March or April, he says, depending upon how much rain has fallen.

Full plate awaits new development chief

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — As El Cerrito's new community development director, Mitch Oshinsky said he wants to help achieve the goals that residents, the City Council and city manager have for the city.

That was also Oshinsky's job in Brentwood, where he was community development director for eight years. In Brentwood, he said, "the council there wanted growth, they wanted high-quality growth to maintain its small-town character. That was the interesting, challenging part of it."

With 24 years of city planning experience, Oshinsky, 48, is replacing interim community development director Susan Westman. The city's last permanent director was Jill Keimach, who took a position in Fremont late last summer.

"I think he has a real depth of experience that will be a real asset to El Cerrito, particularly with the number of projects that are going to be coming through Westman said.

Those projects included potential redevelopment on and around the Del Norte BART station, Westman added. Oshinsky will also help oversee the development agency as it looks at spending \$17 million in bond money, which may include funding



JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

MITCH OSHINSKY is El Cerrito's new community development director.

for a new library. El Cerrito is also looking at the feasibility of building a new city hall.

Originally from New York City, Oshinsky earned a bachelor's degree in city and regional planning from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, in 1980.

He's been a city planner ever since, working in Los Alamitos, Culver City, Claremont, Ventura and Santa Barbara — cities that ranged in population from 10,000 to more than 100,000. He earned a master of public administration from Long Beach State University in 1984.

See **DIRECTOR**, Page A6

Council vows to discuss waterfront

■ Albany officials weigh open space versus development

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

Monday night's two-hour, goal-setting meeting of the Albany City Council resembled a brain-storming session, with individual council members expressing everything they'd like to see accomplished in the next

two years.

One decision made during the session: to hold a meeting later to discuss development of the city's waterfront.

The council discussed the possibility of the Golden Gate Fields racetrack being removed.

Councilman Robert Lieber agreed with Mayor Robert Good who said that the city should not help Magna Entertainment Corp. the owner of Golden Gate Fields, to develop the waterfront.

But as long as the racetrack stays, Lieber said, the city should be happy to receive the gambling revenue it generates.

Councilwoman Jewel Okawachi pointed out that 5 percent of the city's general fund is generated by the track.

"I think we have to look at some development down there at Golden Gate Fields; not a large development but some develop-

See **WATERFRONT**, Page A8

Author Lucile Bogue, 93, lived a full life

By Martin Snapp
STAFF WRITER

When Lucile Maxfield Bogue died Jan. 25, everyone who knew her asked themselves the same question: How did she manage to pack so much living into only 93 years?

The longtime El Cerrito resident was an award-winning poet, playwright, novelist, and non-fiction writer. She was a gifted teacher who continued to receive letters from her former students long after they grew up and had families of their own. She founded

a college, Colorado Mountain College, that has grown to several campuses throughout the state.

She was a world traveler who lived for several years in Japan — she liked to joke that she must

See **BOGUE**, Page A6

INSIDE

Bill Mann

■ Columnist goes to France, where the TV culture is refreshingly different. Page C8

Community Theater

■ "Cabaret" mines the seamy side of the street for exuberant musical. Page C8



Martin Snapp

■ Prospect-Sierra third-graders succeed in helping a friend. Page A3

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INFORMATION FOR LIFE



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NEWS BRIEFS

Albany

Rotary celebrates 100-year mark

The Albany Rotary will celebrate "A Century of Service" from 7:30 to 11 p.m. on Feb. 12 at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. There will be live music, dancing, cocktails, light dinner fare, desserts and a silent auction. Admission is \$20 per person and tickets may be obtained by calling 510-524-1356 or e-mailing party@albanyrotary.org.

— Alan Lopez

AHS staging 'Oklahoma!'

Albany High School presents the musical "Oklahoma!" with a cast of 35 directed by Deirdre Shibano and Joan Sextro, opening Feb. 11 at 8 p.m. in the Little Theater.

The shows runs for two weekends plus Thursday, Feb. 17 (7:30 p.m.), and closes on Saturday, Feb. 19. Friday and Saturday evening performances are at 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. Tickets (\$10 for adults, \$5 for children through 18 and \$5 for senior citizens) can be purchased in advance Monday-Friday between 12:45 and 1:15 p.m. in Room 22 at the high school or by calling the box office at 510-558-2575. Reservations will be held until 10 minutes before curtain, at which time the tickets will go on general sale.

— Deborah Byrd

Cub Scouts holding pancake breakfast

Albany Cub Scout Pack 3 will host a pancake breakfast from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 13 at the Veteran's Hall, 1325 Portland Ave. (in Memorial Park). Admission is \$6 adults, \$3 seniors 55 and over, \$3 kids 5-12, and free for children under 5.

The breakfast features pancakes, bacon, eggs and bagels. There also will be a drawing for prizes with a digital camera as the grand prize. For more information call 510-525-6342.

— Deborah Byrd

El Cerrito

Democratic Club picks 'new' officers

The El Cerrito Democratic Club saw no change in its leadership during its annual meeting to elect new officers on Tuesday, Jan. 25. With a laugh, president Al Miller said, "The officers were re-elected by acclamation, which means no one else wanted the job."

The officers are Joe Franzaszek, past president; Rose Lernberg, vice president of membership; Brad and Pat Catel, vice presidents, treasurers; Dwight Merrill, vice president of records; Betty Brown, vice president of programs; and Helen Read vice president of media.

Among other things, club members passed a resolution asking the California Democratic Party to take a position in favor of ending the occupation in Iraq. They also voted to send an e-mail to United States Senator Barbara Boxer thanking her for objecting to the certification of President George W. Bush, because of questions about voting irregularities in Ohio.

— Alan Lopez

Tea and coffee bar opening next week

A grand opening celebration for the Well Grounded Tea and Coffee Bar at 6925 Stockton Ave. will be held at noon on Saturday, Feb. 12. There will be a ribbon cutting with the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Sandi Potter, in conjunction with the one-year anniversary of Jenny K, a bath and body, candles and card store. Afternoon activities will be provided by Traditional Ways Healing Center and Meher Baba Spiritual Center. Corey Mason and WorldOne Radio will also be on hand. For details call 510-528-4709.

— Alan Lopez

Celebrate Chinese New Year at library

A Chinese New Year celebration will be held on Saturday, Feb. 5 at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Stories and an origami craft session for children will be held at 11 a.m., followed by The Dragon Singers performing Chinese fan dancing at 11:30 a.m. and a Chinese astrologer presentation by author Jacque Jiang at noon. For more information, call 510-526-7512.

— Alan Lopez

Bats on program for garden club meeting

The El Cerrito Garden Club will meet at 9:30 a.m. Thursday in the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane. Docents from the Lindsay Wildlife Museum will present a program on bats. Guests are welcome. A \$3 admission at the door includes refreshments. For information call 510-525-1669.

— Deborah Byrd

Bowling for scholarships in Pinole

The Gooden Family Scholarship Fund will sponsor the "Bowling for Scholarship" tournament at Pinole Valley Bowling Lanes, Pinole, on Feb. 19. The Gooden family includes Andrew Gooden of El Cerrito, grandfather of NBA player Drew Gooden, who played for El Cerrito High School. The tournament is open to all bowlers and all games are bowled on the same lane. Bowlers must bring average verification. The entry fee is \$20 for adults and \$18 for juniors. Adult first-place prize is \$150; with second and third prizes based on entries. The top three juniors will win paid scholarships, with the value based on entries. For more information call 510-527-9695.

— Deborah Byrd

Kensington

Poetry reading set at library

A poetry reading featuring Maggie Morley followed by a poetry open mic, will be held at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. The event is free. Details: 510-524-3043.

— Alan Lopez

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ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

Monday, Jan. 24

■ DRIVING WITHOUT A LICENSE

— At about 10:30 p.m. officers arrested the driver of a red 1994 Pontiac Firebird in the 1100 block of Solano Avenue for driving without a license. The 22-year-old Richmond man was cited and released.

Tuesday, Jan. 25

■ TOYOTA RECOVERED — Officers located a white 1987 Toyota Camry in the 700 block of Cornell Avenue that had been reported as stolen out of El Cerrito. They did not have anyone in custody and the owner was notified.

■ PETTY THEFT — At about 11:30 a.m. officers responded to a business on the 1300 block of Solano Avenue on reports of a young man carrying a shoulder bag who had stolen baby formula. The subject was last seen walking west on Solano Avenue and was gone when officers arrived. Officers will review the store video and continue the investigation.

■ TOYOTA RECOVERED — A resident on the 500 block of Cornell Avenue reported that a red 1984 Toyota pickup had been parked in front of her home for over a week. A check found it had been reported as stolen out of Berkeley. The owner was notified.

Wednesday, Jan. 26

■ DUI — Officers arrested a 51-year-old Clyde, California woman for DUI when they investigated a disabled red 1988 Toyota Corolla in the 700 block of San Pablo Avenue. She was cited

and released with a notice to appear.

Thursday, Jan. 27

■ DUI — Officers stopped a gray 2004 Honda on San Pablo Avenue near Central Avenue for a vehicle code violation. They arrested the driver, a 35-year-old Berkeley man for DUI. He was cited and released.

■ PAROLE VIOLATION — At about 5 p.m. officers responded to a professional building in the 400 block of Evelyn Avenue on reports of a subject on parole who was on the property. Officers arrested the Albany man for delaying officers, parole violations and an outstanding warrant for vandalism. He was cited and taken to Santa Rita Jail.

Friday, Jan. 28

■ TRESPASSING — Officers responded to 535 Pierce St. on reports of subjects being detained for trespassing. A 26-year-old Berkeley woman was arrested, cited and released.

■ ASSAULT ON BART PATH — At about 11 a.m. a woman reported that while she was walking on the BART path a man grabbed at her and would not let go. She was able to break free and hit him. He was gone when officers arrived. That afternoon Oakland police reported having a 43-year-old man in custody at Summit Hospital with nose and facial injuries who matched the description. Officers are investigating.

■ ASSAULT IN PARKING LOT — Shortly before 3 p.m. an Albany man reported that he had just been assaulted by another man in the park-

ing lot of a bank in the 800 block of San Pablo Avenue. The attacker was last seen going north on Kains Avenue.

■ HONDA STOLEN — A woman reported that after parking her white 1985 Honda Accord near Portland and Kains avenues at about 1:30 p.m. she returned at about 3:30 p.m. and the vehicle was missing.

■ NO-BAIL WARRANT — Officers arrested a 53-year-old Oakland man for an outstanding no bail warrant for drug charges. He was cited and taken to Santa Rita Jail.

Saturday, Jan. 29

■ CLOTHES STOLEN — At about 12:30 a.m. an Albany man reported that thieves had just stolen his clothes out of a washroom at an apartment building on the 400 block of Evelyn Avenue.

■ PETTY THEFT — At about 4 p.m. a woman reported that while at a business in the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue someone had stolen her purse. She gave officers a description of someone she suspected was responsible. Officers searched the area and arrested a 31-year-old Vallejo woman for petty theft. She was cited and released.

Sunday, Jan. 30

■ ASSAULT AT STORE — At about 4 p.m. a Berkeley man reported that his 16-year-old daughter had been assaulted by two teenage girls the previous night while at a convenience store in the 1500 block of Solano Avenue.

■ OUTSTANDING WARRANT — At

about 6 p.m. a 33-year-old man came to the Albany Police station for a vehicle release. A found he had an outstanding Clara warrant for speeding in amount of \$1,000. He was released.

■ DISORDERLY CONDUCT — about 11 p.m. officers responded to the 1100 block of Kains Avenue reports of a fight between two men. Officers arrested a 45-year-old man for disorderly conduct, cited and released.

Monday, Jan. 31

■ STORAGE BREAK-IN — the night someone broke into the shed on the 1000 block of shore.

■ AUTO BREAK-IN — At about 11 p.m. an El Cerrito man reported during the night thieves broke into his 1994 Toyota parked in the block of Masonic Avenue.

Summary

During the week of Jan. 24, officers towed five vehicles, responded to nine false alarms, attended to one lost animal, assisted one person locked out of a car and received one report of a barking dog. Domestic arena officers responded to 19 civil disturbances and 145 calls. Officers stopped 72 persons issuing 36 citations and warnings. Albany firefighters responded to 10 emergencies.

EL CERRITO POLICE REPORTS

Tuesday, Jan. 4

■ DRUG POSSESSION — A 35-year-old Richmond man was arrested at 11 a.m. at a gas station at Central Avenue and Pierce Street on suspicion of possessing methamphetamine. The man was released from custody pending the results of a lab test of the substance.

Monday, Jan. 17

■ ASSAULT — A 50-year-old El Cerrito man was arrested on suspicion of assault following the report of a disturbance on the 1700 block of Lexington Avenue at 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 22

■ DRUG POSSESSION — A 25-

year-old Albany woman was arrested at 8:25 a.m. on suspicion of possessing methamphetamine that she intended to sell, following a traffic stop on Central Avenue at Interstate 80, police said.

Tuesday, Jan. 25

■ BURGLARY — Property was taken from a home on the 5600 block of Jordan Avenue between 7:45 a.m. and 3 p.m. A rear window was pried open to gain entry, police said.

■ VEHICLE THEFT — A 1986 Oldsmobile Cutlass on the 900 block of King Drive was entered and ransacked between noon on Jan. 25 and 7 p.m. the next day. Someone broke out the rear wing window of the vehicle, but didn't take anything, police said.

■ VEHICLE THEFT, RECOVERY —

A beige Toyota truck stolen in Berkeley was found abandoned in the 5300 block of Pointsett Avenue near Pointsett Park at 11:10 a.m.

■ VEHICLE THEFT — A 1992 four-door Honda Civic was stolen from the 1100 block of Richmond Street between 9:30 p.m. on Jan. 25 and 7:30 a.m. the next day.

Wednesday, Jan. 26

■ VEHICLE THEFT — A stolen 1995 Ford vehicle was recovered at Pomona Avenue and Mooser Lane at 1:05 a.m. The vehicle had been reported stolen in El Cerrito on Jan. 21, police said.

■ VEHICLE RECOVERY — A stolen 1997 Honda Civic was recovered at South 56th Street and Potrero Avenue at 8:55 a.m. The vehicle was reported stolen in Daly City on Jan. 2.

■ DRUGS, STOLEN PROPERTY — A 50-year-old Richmond man, 44-year-old wife were arrested at 4300 block of Sycamore Avenue, Richmond, following a parole conducted by El Cerrito detectives. The detectives found suspected crack cocaine and drug paraphernalia, plus checks belonging to the couple. The couple was arrested on suspicion of drug possession. Possession of stolen property were transported to the Marin County Jail.

Thursday, Jan. 27

■ VEHICLE THEFT — A 1987 black Park Avenue was taken from the block of Arlington Boulevard at 11 a.m. The vehicle was taken and the owner left the car engine running warm up, police said.

El Cerrito mayor to give state of city address

Mayor Sandi Potter will deliver a state of the city address to the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce at its business luncheon at noon on Feb. 22, at Mira Vista Golf and Country Club, 7901 Cutting Blvd. The cost is \$16. RSVP to 510-233-7040 by Feb. 18.

The chamber is also supporting the first annual El Cerrito Business Reception, set for Friday, March 11, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The event will feature food, drink, entertainment, resource tables and opportunities for local businesses to network, according to

the chamber newsletter.

The event is sponsored by the city's economic development board, with additional support from the El Cerrito Magazine and the El Cerrito Rotary Club.

— Alan Lopez

CORRECTION

A story on Jan. 28 should have said that the El Cerrito City Council reappointed Bruce Anderson to the design review board.

Albany makes new directory of youth programs available

Where can your middle-schooler join a film club? Is there a local class for young kids to learn Chinese? What is capoeira and does anyone teach it in Albany?

Those questions and more are answered in the new directory for Albany Youth Programs, which contains information about programs and classes at the Albany YMCA, the City of Albany Recreation and Community Services Department, the University Village and the Albany Library.

The directory is available in

notebook form at all of the agencies and at all Albany offices. The directory is available online at: albanyca.org/dept/rec.htm down to the bottom of the and www.aclibrary.org/branch/banycommunity.asp

Listings are divided into following categories: pre-elementary, middle school, school, and families.

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Shareef Dajani, general manager • Deborah Byrd, Hills

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Community comes through for deaf boy

WELL, READERS, you came through again. I don't know why I'm surprised anymore. You've done it so many times in the past. But once again, I'm awed by the depth of caring and generosity you showed to a deaf 2-year-old boy and the third-graders who are trying to help him.

Two weeks ago I wrote about Holly Pierce's third-grade class at Prospect Sierra School in El Cerrito. The kids are trying to raise \$15,000 to pay the tuition for a 2-year-old named Samuel Brown at the Center for the Education of the Infant Deaf in Berkeley.

The next day, your checks started arriving. On Tuesday, the total was \$15,337, already topping the goal. (The surplus will go toward Samuel's tuition for next year.)

I happened to be talking with Pierce on the phone while she was adding up the money, and when she announced that they'd topped the \$15,000 mark, I could hear the kids exploding with joy in the background. I wish you could have heard it, too.

Many of you also enclosed letters, which the children will treasure for a long, long time. "They're so touching, it makes me want to cry inside," said Sothea Werthan.

"They mean even more than the money," added Shan Warren. "My favorites are the ones that say, 'Keep up the good work,'" said Emily Monteforte. Like it when they encourage

Here's a sampling of their fan club.

"Dear Ms. Pierce, Please tell your students that even people who haven't met them are proud of them." — Bonnie Paulson, Walnut Creek

"What wonderful friends you are! In your effort to help Samuel at CEID, you show a level of concern and caring that many adults could learn from. I hope you are able to reach your admirable goal and give Samuel the astonishing gift — though he already has the nicest gift of all, which is your love and friendship." — Claudia Bauer, Oakland

"You are young, but your actions are very mature. I hope you all keep this positive attitude as you grow older. Our world needs more people who care about someone who needs help, and know how to do it, and do it. You're terrific!" — Laurie Stout, Concord

Thank you for making my day a great day. You should all



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

be very proud of yourselves. There is no greater gift to give than to reach out and help someone. Please do not lose those sweet, loving hearts as you get older." — Lee Betancourt, San Leandro

"You make the world and life seem so very sweet. We love you." — H. Walk (city unknown)

"What a wonderful thing you are doing for your friend Samuel. We wish our grandkids had a teacher like Ms. Pierce." — Ron and Diane de Golia, Walnut Creek

"I wish I could send a larger donation, but do hope you can use the enclosed contribution. I'm confident that you'll reach your goal, and also that you'll continue to be successful in reaching the other dreams in your lives." — Linda Reed Strauss (city unknown)

"Ladies and gentlemen: You are awesome! Keep up the great fundraising! I know you will reach your goal!" — Diana Marzola, Dublin

"What you have done, and are doing, is powerful! This is the kind of thing that gives true meaning to our lives. Thank you!" — Sandy Pihovich, Alamo

"What a blessing you are to Samuel and an inspiration to others!" — J. Auden (city unknown)

"I wish this could be more money, but I send it with lots of pride in what you are doing. Good luck and great job, kids!" — Anonymous

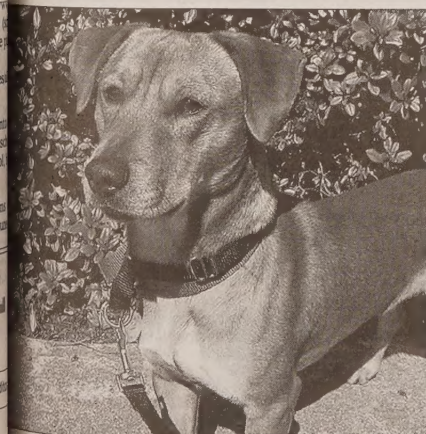
The letters are being displayed in the place of honor on the class bulletin board. Eventually, they'll be lovingly placed in a scrapbook the children are making.

This is the next generation, folks. These are the people who will be taking over the world from us. They already have a lot to be proud of.

As do you, dear readers.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or email msnapp@cc-times.com.

LET OF THE WEEK



BERKELEY EAST BAY HUMANE SOCIETY
PERSON is a 2-year-old male dachshund-Labrador retriever mix, short stature but big on personality, say people at the Berkeley East Bay Humane Society, where he may be available for adoption. He also says he "doesn't need much from a home other than a good, someone to throw toys for him, and someone who understands his fear and dislike of other dogs."

BERKELEY — The following animals may be available for adoption at the Berkeley East Bay Humane Society:
Dogs: Female hound mix, 3 years; 2-year-old female lab mix, 2 years; female Labrador retriever mix, 2 years; male border collie mix, 1 year; female German shepherd mix, 1 year; female treeing Walker hound mix, 10 months; female Australian cattle dog mix, 10 months; male Dalmatian mix, 10 months; male spitz mix, 5 months; female Doberman pinscher mix, 4 months.
Cats: Female black and white, 1 year; male black, 6 years; female tabby brown, 6 years; male tabby, 5 years; female gray tabby, 5 years; female dilute gray, 5 years; black, 5 years; fe-

male calico, 4 years; female dilute tortoiseshell, 4 years; male black (2 cats), 4 years; female calico, 3 years; female Siamese chocolate point, 3 years; male tabby brown, 3 years; female calico, 3 years; female black, 2 years; male gray and white, 9 months; male black, 5 months.
Rabbits: female Dutch mix, tan and white, 1 year; female chinchilla mix brown agouti, 2 years; female English spot mix black and white, 4 years.

Adoption fee: cats \$100; dogs \$125 — including spaying/neutering and age-appropriate shots. There is an overnight hold period. The Berkeley East Bay Humane Society is located at 2700 Ninth St., Berkeley. Its hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Information: www.berkeleyhumane.org or call 510-845-7735.

FACES & PLACES

Six decades later, teammates huddle over lunch

By Mary Reiley
STAFF WRITER

With the sun shining through the patio door of Vincent "Jim" Mirante's Crockett home on last week, the lunch table conversation sounded like a mini history lesson.

It was the annual gathering for Mirante and Jim Andersen of Berkeley, Don Kaer of Albany, Bob Leonard and George Tsaguris, both of El Cerrito, Pat Ryan of Santa Rosa and Herb Schmalenberger of Davis. Ray Nilsson of Yreka was unable to attend.

All of them 80, the guys go way back, to the days when they played first-string varsity football as Albany High School seniors in 1942. After graduation, Tsaguris and Mirante played football for College of Marin, and Ryan eventually coached track at Santa Rosa Junior College. Schmalenberger coached football, basketball and swimming at UC Davis. "We're all pretty well entrenched in football," Mirante said.

The seven former teammates took me from their high school to college football days, and told me how they played through injuries. They talked about jobs they held as youngsters, how they watched the Golden Gate and San Francisco-Oakland bridges being built and visited the 1939-40 World's Fair.

Talk turned from the fun of being a Boy Scout, to their high school football coach, John Ryan, Pat's dad, and to the notorious field at Albany's Memorial Park, where football and baseball shared the same hard ground. "Our football field was like playing on the streets," Kaer said.

Some have the hip and knee replacements to back that up.

Pat Ryan remembered the astonishment when players from Piedmont High came on the Albany field for one game.

"They all looked down at the dirt because their cleats made the same sound as walking on cement," he said.

Coach Ryan liked that hard, uneven surface.

"(He thought) it gave the other players something to think about," Pat Ryan said.

John Ryan taught mechanical drawing when the guys attended Albany High School, Kaer said, and regaled his students with stories about his years at sea.

"He was a wise man, an influence on us boys," Leonard said.



1942 ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL varsity football players, front from left, Don Kaer and Vincent "Jim" Mirante, and back row, Jim Andersen, George Tsaguris, Herb Schmalenberger, Pat Ryan and Bob Leonard, met at Mirante's Crockett home Wednesday for their fourth annual reunion lunch. The eighth surviving team member, Ray Nilsson of Yreka, was unable to attend.

Indeed, Kaer credits Coach Ryan for inspiring him to go to sea. "(Coach) was our role model," he said.

Andersen appreciated the positive influences on his life as well. "If it wasn't for the Boy Scouts and football, I'd have ended up on Alcatraz," he said, half joking.

The annual lunches started in 2002 when Leonard and Kaer got to thinking about the old times. "There were still some of us around and we wanted to get together," Leonard said.

Some hadn't seen each other for almost 60 years, he said, and the lunches have proved to be a good chance to talk over their good times. "There are a lot of memories," said Leonard, who held the first two gatherings at his El Cerrito home. "Each get-together seems to be better than the last."

"It's too bad we didn't do this at an earlier time," Kaer said. "There are probably others who were with us then, and we're not familiar with where they are."

This year's lunch was moved up to January because three of the youngest guys celebrated their 80th birthdays this month.

Sergio Pericoli of El Sobrante, a friend of Mirante's, cooked and served the lunch so the former teammates could relax around the table. As if the salad, bread

and a heaping bowl of pasta with meat sauce weren't enough, a layer cake waited on the counter nearby.

"Like any group that's known each other a long time, but perhaps not stayed in contact, when

we get together, we talk about the good old days," Schmalenberger said in a follow-up phone conversation. "I think we talk more about the past than the future — the adventures and fun we had."

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Professor invited to post in Jerusalem

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

Albany resident Robert Traer has been invited by the World Council of Churches to work in Jerusalem for three months with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel.

The WCC program was begun in 2002 to support Palestinians and Israelis in non-violent efforts to promote justice and freedom and to resist discrimination and inhumane conduct, according to a press release.

In Israel and the occupied territories, Christians from the member churches of the WCC cooperate with Jews and Muslims to protect Palestinians' and Israelis' human rights, and to promote the rule of law. More information about the program can be found online at www.eappi.org.

Traer teaches ethics at Dominican University in San Rafael and is the author of "Faith in Hu-

man Rights," a 1991 study of religious support for human rights. He directed the International Association for Religious Freedom from 1990 to 2000.

Traer will visit California members of Congress the week of Feb. 7 before traveling to Jerusalem the following week. He will return home in mid-May.

He will send a weekly e-mail "Letter from Jerusalem" during his stay. To subscribe, send a blank e-mail to jerusalem-subscribe@list.christian-bible.com.

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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should
a government without newspapers, or newspapers
without a government, I should not hesitate a moment
to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIAL

Waterfront planning
needs special scrutiny

ALBANY CITY Council members spent some time Monday sharing the goals they would like to see the city pursue over the next two years.

Understandably, they decided another meeting would be needed later to talk about the development of the waterfront.

Albany is struggling with the same issues many cities face: how to attract enough development to provide tax revenue and jobs, while making sure it's the right kind of development so that the city's quality of life is not adversely affected.

That struggle is well illustrated by the city's reaction to its largest landmark, Golden Gate Fields racetrack. Not so long ago racetracks had a raffish sort of Damon Runyonesque aura about them. Movie stars were photographed cheering their favorites on.

There are still people who feel that way about the track. But now there also are people who would like to see it disappear, the better to return the waterfront to a more natural state.

Whether or not the track stays or leaves is a decision to be made by Magna Entertainment Corp., which owns it. Magna has consistently said it's not leaving. But as anyone who works for a corporation can tell you, what is said for public consumption often has little to do with the long-range planning that's going on in the executive offices. We just don't know for sure what will happen there.

And so we agree with Vice Mayor Allan Maris's suggestion that what the city needs to focus on are realistic options for the area if Magna does move out.

And we agree with Mayor Robert Good and Councilman Joe Lieber that the city should not help Magna in the development of its property. Any development that includes the racetrack staying is not likely to be in line with long-term visions that Albany leaders and residents have said they want.

By the same token, any development other than the track needs to be looked at for the revenue it can generate. As Councilwoman Jewel Okawachi pointed out, 5 percent of the city's general fund comes from Golden Gate Fields.

The city needs to examine whether it can do without that 5 percent, or with a lesser amount of revenue, and also consider the tradeoffs. Perhaps a decline in revenue from that area of the city would be offset by the amenities that, say, a small hotel and a well-thought-out open space plan would offer.

And it should consider whether development along Cleveland Avenue and the Eastshore Highway, adjacent to Interstate 80, has the potential to be a viable alternative to racetrack revenues, as Councilman Farid Javandel said.

Many other issues from affordable housing to the future of the Gill Tract to city hall renovations also need attention.

But we believe the waterfront is one issue that deserves a meeting of its own. Both city officials and residents know this is one issue they need to get right. We applaud their moves toward giving it the amount of attention it needs.

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HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR

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OF THE ROOSTER.

I KNOW. BUT MY YEAR
SEEMED SO SHORT.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sen. Boxer's accusation is
accurate

I was saddened to read the despicable letter from D.L. Damon (Journal, Jan. 28) regarding Sen. Barbara Boxer.

He objects to Boxer's calling Condoleezza Rice a liar, in regard to Rice's assurances that there was firm evidence that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

There are many, including me, who believe Boxer's accusation is accurate and applaud her courage. It is depressing that Sen. Dianne Feinstein has revealed her own lack of political courage by her cloying endorsement of her fellow Stanford alum and chum, Condoleezza Rice.

With respect to name-calling, I note Damon has no problem insinuating that Sen. Boxer is a racist, for which there is no evidence at all, except in his own muddled mind. He also reveals himself as a misogynist, labeling those women politicians with whom he disagrees, including Boxer, Nancy Pelosi and Barbara Lee, as "shrewish." Does Damon also suspect Lee of being racist because she opposes Rice?

Damon, perhaps more unfortunately, goes on to "out" himself as a homophobe, irrationally linking the debate about homosexual marriage to Sen. Boxer's criticism of Rice's erroneous statements about WMD.

He has thus employed the cheapest of debating tactics by changing the subject (three times) in order to launch false *ad hominem* attacks on Boxer. This only highlights his lack of credible evidence to support his conviction that Rice was truthful in her pre-war statements regarding Iraq.

If Damon has that evidence, let's hear it! He might win a Pulitzer.

Also, would Damon please include the evidence of Boxer's racism and enlighten us on how homosexual marriage is related to Iraq's non-existent WMD?

Joan Treiman Cohn
El Cerrito

Splendid opportunity
missed

The "city fathers" of Richmond should start planning a replacement slogan for its present "Richmond — City of Pride and Purpose."

Their choice for a casino at Point Molate, rather than a desirable and coveted park for all to enjoy, reflects nothing of which Richmond should be proud, nor, in the long range, of worthy purpose.

There is no debating the fact that casinos, with their tinsel-town persona, cater to that foolish segment of society: those who mainly cannot afford to lose their money to the glittering ladies-luck who lure them into the walls of their fantasy lands.

It is beyond comprehension that the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a much-needed state-of-the-art park on this exquisite site was bypassed for what amounts to nothing more than a structure of trash. This, especially, since Richmond is forging ahead, at a very rapid pace, with a profusion of density housing while recreational sites and green space is leaving so much to be desired.

Rationalizing that there is more mon-

etary gain by opting for a casino epitomizes the thought process of politicians, most of whom have cash registers where their brains and altruistic leanings should be.

What could have been a gorgeous, splendid and dazzling jewel in Richmond's crown will be nothing more than a cheap and tawdry rhinestone.

Diane E. Severson
Kensington

Better than Bush's plan

I am for putting Social Security money into the stock market on one condition — that the administration follow New York City's procedure. I am not talking about "pie in the sky," but simply my own factual experience.

Thirty years ago, when I retired, the New York Teachers Board offered retirees the option of putting some retirement assets into a portfolio of stocks or all into a bank account at an insured 4.5 percent annually. Many took the safe 4.5 percent; I opted for the partial stock portfolio (run like a mutual fund).

The stock portfolio began at a unit price of 10.00. It fluctuated monthly: sometimes higher, sometimes lower. The unit price for December 2005 is 60.909.

With only 18 percent of my pension in stocks, my starting pension has a little more than tripled my top-of-the-scale pension at retirement in 1975. The balance, 82 percent, was put into the 4.5 percent bank account.

Had I been allowed to put 100 percent of my pension account into the market, as I wished, my pension today would have been more than \$200,000 a year.

If President Bush doesn't let retirees mess around with private accounts, but follows New York City's example — giving seasoned managers control of the funds, instead of individual taxpayers, who could blow it — the plan should work well, as it did for me.

As of 2004, the assets in the teachers pension fund exceeds \$12 billion, after paying retirees monthly for the past 30 years, when the program was initiated.

Sidney Kamil
Albany

Torture advocate?

Regarding George W. Bush's nomination of Alberto Gonzales for attorney general, I'm waiting for the "moral values"

constituency to condemn Gonzales' advocacy of the use of torture by our government.

As reported in the Contra Costa Times, Gonzales continues to maintain — with no apparent shame — that we are under no obligation to extend humane treatment to all those in U.S. custody, and to state there are circumstances under which the use of torture by the CIA is legal and appropriate.

Meanwhile, the consensus among interrogation experts is that torture is simply immoral, but also generally ineffective as a means of gathering useful intelligence. And the perception that condone torture erodes the protection that our own citizens — particularly in military service — enjoy against similar mistreatment.

Further, elevating a person of Gonzales' views would be a huge setback in the critical struggle against spreading Americanism, which helps fuel terrorism worldwide.

Instead of rewarding Gonzales to allow conduct that is fundamentally at odds with our national values, the president should reserve the position of attorney general for true public servant whose unswerving dedication is to holding the law.

Philip De La

Divisive solicitation

I recently received a rather curious letter from Republican State Sen. Tim Clintock.

The letter was asking donations to the Institute for Family and Taxpayers whose mission statement reads, "to store California for families and taxpayers by equipping individuals with information they can use to take direct coordinated action in large numbers."

McClintock's letter was very personal, very religious in overtone, very divisive and extremely insulting to anyone who views as "liberal" or not part of his particular "community of faith."

The tone of McClintock's letter indicated to me that he is a man of little understanding and an inability to appreciate solid community values in any way that differ from him.

These are rather scary traits for a person in a leadership position!

Marie Trow

El Sobrante

Lawless barbarians

The only effect of killing, via the death penalty, is to make us all lawless barbarians.

Illegal laws are still illegal.

Norma J. F. Hays

Redwood

WRITE TO THE
JOURNAL

Letters to the editor and op-ed pieces reflect the opinion of the writer and must include the author's first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. Maximum letter length is 300 words. Maximum op-ed length is 450 words.

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UC Buddhist festival will feature work of El Cerrito documentary maker

FILMMAKER AND El Cerrito resident Sapana Sakya loaned me a copy of her documentary "Women of Everest," and I found myself deeply involved in the lives of these pioneer Nepalese women determined to climb the highest mountain in the world.

These people, the Sherpas of Nepal, make their living by acting as porters for the climbers of the great mountain. But only the men are the actual porters. The women simply provide support services. These women were determined to show that women could do more. And they did. The documentary is told from the women's perspective. We came to know them as the handsome, charismatic people they



CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

are. Filmmaker Sakya was born in Nepal, but grew up in Thailand where her father, who worked with UNESCO, was headquartered. She speaks Thai, Nepali and Newari (their ethnic language in Nepal), plus "a little French," as well as English. Sakya attended a Catholic-American school in Bangkok, then came to the U.S. for under-

graduate studies at Purdue University, in Indiana. "Such a small town," she says, "and freezing weather. It was a great experience."

Returning to Thailand, she worked for an English language newspaper for a while, then came to Berkeley to work on her master's degree in journalism. It was her dislike of having to interview "grieving people who had just had a disaster" that turned her away from print journalism. "I am not very aggressive," she says. "In documentaries, spending more time with people felt more natural to me."

Sakya's first film was about a Laotian Hmong family in Fresno. In Thailand, she says, the Hmong lived in the hills. She

had never before known them in a modern setting. "Red White Blue November" (for the month they arrived) documented how they escaped violence, their journey from Laos to America, and their life here.

She did a couple of documentaries as associate producer with Ellen Brunol. She was production assistant on "Adventure in Nepal," about Dr. Toni Hagen, a Swiss geologist and one of the first westerners to travel to Nepal to document the country's diverse geography.

Sakya worked with the Asian American Telecommunications Association, producing a half-hour episode entitled "Oklahoma Home" for a series about contemporary Asian American sto-

ries for broadcast on PBS in 2003. She shot "Daughters of Everest" in 2000, and finished it last year. Her co-producer was Nepalese cinematographer Ramyata Limbu. "By the time we finished it, we had both married, and each had one child."

Sapana met Josiah Hooper, also a filmmaker, in graduate school. He teaches media in an Alameda high school. Daughter Karuna is now 19 months old. "That's how I spend much of my time now."

In addition to working with others, Sakya is working on her own projects, one telling the story of herself and her husband, who come from two different cultures, and how they adapt. They spent about 10

months in Nepal in 1998 because her parents were about her marrying into the culture. "It was really all of us, but we made bargaining gained. Her parents have visited here a couple of times."

There will be a screening of "Daughters of Everest" at the International Buddhist Festival on Feb. 6 at 4 p.m. at Wheeler Hall on the UC Berkeley campus.

Tips on people who are interesting things in Alameda Cerrito or Kensington: Clara-Rae Genser knows 525-4585 or orggenser@comcast.net

Director

FROM PAGE A1

He landed in Brentwood in 1996, while that city was experiencing exponential growth.

"We doubled in five years and doubled again in five years," said Howard Sword, Brentwood's com-

munity development director.

In 1994, Brentwood had a population of 10,000 people; increasing to 20,000 in 1999 and 43,000 today, Sword said.

Oshinsky managed a 27-person community development department there with a \$3.4 million department budget and work program, according to his resume.

"He has a lot of redevelopment and economic development experience," said City Manager Scott Hanin. "And also experience in code enforcement and the building department ... we're happy to have him."

Oshinsky said he's now overseeing 16 staff people in three divisions — building, planning and

economic development/redevelopment.

Economic development consists of maintaining the businesses the city has and attracting new ones, while maintaining a proper ratio between business and residential development, Oshinsky said.

He started at El Cerrito on Jan.

24. Into his second week on the job, he said he was getting up to speed on high-profile city projects such as the Cerrito Theater renovations and the Measure C garage and condominium development at El Cerrito Plaza.

As for Westman, her last day was Jan. 26, after which she said she wanted to do some travel-

ing.

"The plan is to come to Cerrito for a couple months to finish up some projects that I haven't finished. Westman, who was in manager in 2001. "And that is the new code enforcement program."

Bogue

FROM PAGE A1

have been Japanese in an earlier life — as well as teaching at colleges in Ecuador and Nicaragua.

She was dean of the Anna Head School in Oakland, a board member of the East Bay Center of the Performing Arts in Richmond, and an active member of the National League of Pen American Women, California Writers Club, and the Ina Coolbrith Circle.

She was also a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and a good friend to her many friends all over the world. "She was never bored and never boring," remembers her daughter, Bonnie Bogue of Albany. "Everything in life was an adventure for her."

Bogue was born in 1911 to a pioneer Colorado family and grew up on a homestead, developing a lifelong passion for the great outdoors. "She loved beauty, and she found it everywhere," says Bonnie. "Often, we'd be driving along the Bay, and her eye would be caught by something she saw. The next thing you knew, there'd be this exquisite little poem about the effect of the light on the water."

She cast her first vote in 1932

for Franklin D. Roosevelt and remained a loyal Democrat. She took great pleasure during the last weeks of her life in having Bill Clinton's autobiography, "My Life," read to her.

She loved opera, ballet and a good joke. She never missed a performance of the Contra Costa Civic Theatre if she could possibly help it. "She thought Louis Flynn was the greatest thing since sliced bread," says Bonnie.

Her published novels include "Blood on the Wind," about the uprooting of the Utes from their native lands in western Colorado, and "Salt Lake," about the Mormon trek to Utah. Her plays include "Freedom Trail" (for which she also composed the music), produced for the Colorado Centennial in 1959, and two award-winning one-act plays: "Bon Voyage" and "I ... As in Identity."

Among her non-fiction works: "Miracle on the Mountain," recounting the challenge of founding Colorado Mountain College, and "Dancers On Horseback," about her experiences at the Perry-Mansfield theater and dance camp in Steamboat Springs, where her campers included performers Julie Harris (a lifelong friend), Dustin Hoffman and Lee Remick. Other published works included collec-

tions of poetry ("Blood Stones/ Lines from a Marriage," "Wind-bells on the Bay," "Typhoon! Typhoon!" and "Eye of the Condor/Ojo del Condor") and her autobiography, "One Woman, One Ranch, One Summer, and How To Stay Young Forever."

Among her awards for writing were the Colorado Poet of the Year award, the Browning Society's Poetry Prize for dramatic monologue, and the World of Poets grand prize. She was named Woman of the Year by the National League of American Pen Women in 1983

and was the first writer to win four consecutive national prizes from the National Writers Club. In 1993 she received the Hattie Werner Award for Excellence.

"She never retired," says Bonnie Bogue. "The one thing that got her really angry was when anyone called her retired. To use her favorite phrase, it made her 'madder than a hop.'"

She was married to Arthur Bogue on Dec. 25, 1935, and is survived by two daughters, Bonnie and her sister, Sharon Young of Tucson, Ariz., foster-daughter Liz

Starfin Kurz of Tucson, foster-son Crosby Perry-Smith of Ouray, Colo., son-in-law Tom Young of Tucson, niece Glende Martin of Denver, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Two memorial services will be held: one at the Unitarian Church in Kensington at 10:30 a.m. on April 9, the other at Colorado Mountain College in Steamboat

Springs on July 2.

The Lucile Bogue Fund for the Alpine Colorado Mountain College has been established in her name. The college is located in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Ritschel, Colorado Mountain College, Steamboat Springs 80487.



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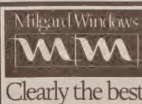
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Learning

Waterfront

FROM PAGE A8

ment to help the city," she said. The waterfront should have a "combination of revenue for the city and as much open space as possible," Vice Mayor Allan Maris said. He wants realistic options for the city in the event the track is razed, saying, "I think we need to do something strategic in case they do go away."

The city should prioritize Cleveland Avenue and the East-shore Highway — streets adjacent to the Interstate 80 freeway — for development that would generate sales tax for Albany, as an alternative to development at Golden Gate Fields, Councilman Farid Javandel said.

Good said the council should discuss what they wanted to see on the waterfront at a future meeting.

"I think it'll be the issue of the year," Lieber said. "We should agendize a strategy session so we know what we want to do."

The city should also have a vision for the Gill Tract, a plot of agricultural land used for UC Berkeley research, Lieber said.

It could have a community garden and farm along with planned replacement ball fields, he added.

"I couldn't disagree more," Good said. "It's not an appropriate use of city land to build a farm."

"It's not city land," Lieber responded. "It belongs to the University of California."

Lieber added that he wanted the council to address "social injustice" issues; for example, a woman's right to choose.

He also wants the city to look at alternatives to spending \$2 million on City Hall renovations and an expansion of the city's police and fire buildings and focus on city storm drain and sewer repair.

The city should move forward with establishing Pierce Street Park, a piece of land adjacent to the Interstate 80 freeway being negotiated for purchase from Caltrans, Okawachi said.

She said she wanted to improve city working conditions to compete with other cities that have more fiscal resources, and have a dedicated fund for the maintenance, repair or replacement of city buildings.

She also wanted to establish

a meeting place for teen-agers and have art shows and special events at city parks.

Maris said he sits on the Berkeley/Albany Mental Health Commission and wanted more city support for mental health issues. He also wanted to pursue affordable housing and look more closely at redevelopment opportunities on San Pablo Avenue.

Good said the city should consider making it more difficult for homeowners to expand their homes.

"If someone wants a bigger house, that person should buy a bigger house," he said.

He said he also wanted the city to purchase and seismically retrofit the Veterans Memorial Building.

Said Lieber: "I've heard many many times there's a significant mold problem (at the building), which I'd like to be educated on."

Councilman Farid Javandel said he wanted incentives for solar power use and to prioritize pedestrian, bike and motorist safety.

"I want to encourage you to have a clear plan on all open space we can get, everywhere,"



A PEDESTRIAN walks a trail along Albany Beach, where Golden Gate Fields racetrack background.

said resident Mara Duncan, during the public comment period of the meeting.

Park and recreation commissioner Kim Linden also encouraged the council to provide

"stewardship" for the Gill Tract, connecting that effort to the city's quality of life.

"Environmental beauty is not just for the soul and spirit," Good responded. "Environmental

beauty is also good values."

Reach Alan Lopez at 3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com

Events

FROM PAGE A1

of the \$800 fines. Future violations will cost Scher \$500 each, said Carlos Baltodano, the director of the county's building inspection department.

Residents and KMAC board members said the fund-raising ordinance would provide loopholes for Scher to hold his concerts legally.

"If this is passed, it will be giving Mr. Scher the opportunity to continue to engage in what appears to me to be scofflaw behavior, based on scofflaw mentality," said resident Leonard Schwarzbud.

"I don't know Mr. Scher, I don't live in that area, but this is bad legislation no matter what side you're on," added KMAC member Richard Karlsson.

Residents complained that the ordinance would be difficult to enforce and believed it was designed to help Scher.

"This is a law that doesn't have any constituency in Kensington or Contra Costa County, except one person ..." said resident Tim Hoyer. "This is an imposition from the highest levels of state government on the county supervisors and then on us."

Scher said he also opposed the ordinance but defended his concerts. He said he was raising money for worthy causes such as breast cancer research and did not monetarily benefit.

He said he wanted to work with neighbors and offered the possibility of holding community events at his home.

"The last thing I want to walk down the street and avoid eye contact with my neighbors ..." said Scher, sitting on a couch in the back of the packed room. "I've lived here 17 years, my children have gone to public schools here ... I don't think I'm a troublemaker."

At one point, Scher quietly said it would be "war" if the two sides could not come to an agreement.

Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia attended the meeting for about 20 minutes and said all of the county's municipal advisory commissions were providing input on the ordinance.

He believed that aside from Kensington, there was one other fund-raising conflict that had emerged in the San Ramon area.

The proposed ordinance will go before the County Board of Supervisors after it's considered by the county planning commission in March or April, Gioia said.

"(The ordinance) would apply countywide," he said. "Clearly what raised the issue is what's happening here in Kensington."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

Lawn

FROM PAGE A1

said. "I think it's a drainage problem. It's too bad we spent so much and we're still having ponding."

Medlock said it was unclear whether improper drainage was to blame and whether it needs to be fixed.

Whittaker said the grass weathered the winter rains in late 2003 and early 2004 and both he and Medlock blamed overuse of young turf for the problems.

"Even with your best lawn you're not going to avoid ponding and pooling," said Medlock. "When you play on it — whether it drains properly or not — it will just make it worse."

Nevertheless, drainage problems are nothing new to Albany fields, said Dave Preuss, the president of the Albany Little League.

The Memorial and Ocean View park baseball and soccer fields, for example, were constructed without proper drainage and will cost a couple of hundred thousand dollars to fix, he said.

Metal fencing has been erected around both fields to prevent use until the Little League season begins on Feb. 22, said public works manager Rich Cunningham.

Last week a motorist erected on the grass side of Memorial to people off it after a orange mesh fence down.

"My impression of the lawn needed some time to said Mayor Robert G. OK with me. They're to fence it off forever."

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February 4, 2005

Advertising supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclairian, The Piedmont

Maximizing a home sale in 2005

Start your sale early for success

INMAN NEWS
The residential home sale business had another record-breaking year in 2004. Interest rates remain low, the expectation is the market will also do well in 2005.

However, in some areas there is a concern that the housing market will be cooling, inventories, which have been tight for years, are easing in places like Las Vegas and Los Angeles. Mortgage rates are expected to rise this year. How much is anyone's guess. Most experts expect a substantial increase in the slow market activity.

So, how do you take advantage of a good market and sell while the market is still good? Putting your home on the market early in the year could be the key to success. Most sellers defer selling until spring, when gardens are blooming and the sun is shining. But, if you wait until the end of May or June to put your home on the market, you could run into a summer slowdown as vacation activities take precedence over home buying.

Your home has a better chance of selling quickly and for more money if there is less competition in other listings. Inventories of homes for sale are

usually quite a bit lower early in the year than they are in late spring or summer. Most homes need to sit for sale work, which takes time. So, even if you're planning to sell your home in March or April, you should start planning now. Putting it off is time consuming, especially if you have lived in your home for years.

It may make sense to do more than just clearing out and cleaning before you put your home on the market. A relatively small capital investment can result in a big profit when you sell. Cost-effective cosmetic improvements like paint and replacing outdated light fixtures and floor coverings are your best bet.

Your aim should be to get your home in good enough shape so that buyers can visualize themselves moving in without having to do much work. On the other hand, taking on major renovations usually won't give you a good return on your investment.

HOME SELLER TIP: The key to a successful sale in 2005 will depend on how realistic you are about the current market value of your home. It's natural to want to sell for the highest price possible. However, selecting an over inflated list price could be counterproductive if you're serious about selling. Listings that are over-priced for the market usually don't sell.

The list price should be based on sales activity in your neighborhood within the last six months. The more recent the sale, the more reflective it will be of current market conditions. Wild over-bidding during the last several years produced some exorbitant sale prices for considerably more than the list price. Rather than base your asking price on an aberrant high sale price in your neighborhood, it's more realistic to drop that sale from the list and consider other sales as indicative of market value.

Providing pre-sale inspection reports can reduce the hassle of selling. If the buyers have a good idea of the your home's condition before they make an offer, there is less



DIAN HYMER
House Hunting

Putting your home on the market early could be the key to success. Most sellers wait until spring, when gardens are blooming and the sun is shining. If you wait until the end of May or June to put your home on the market, you could run into a summer slowdown.

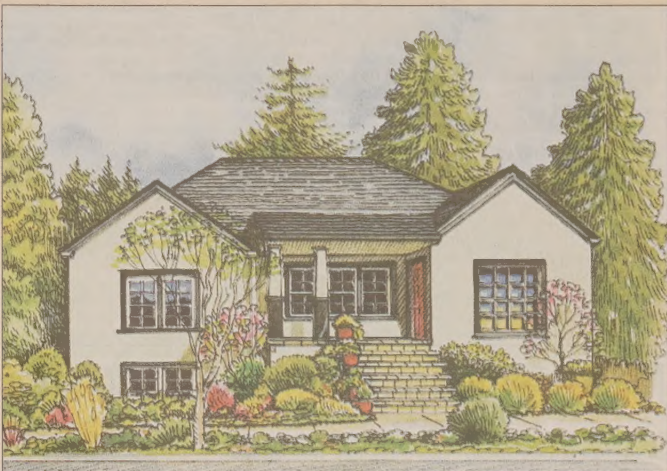
chance they'll back out because of a property defects. Pre-sale inspection reports also tend to reduce the renegotiation that can occur after the buyers perform their inspections.

THE CLOSING: Be sure to set up a showing procedure that makes it easy for real estate agents to show your home. Also, it's best to leave your home when it's shown. Your presence can stifle the selling process.

Dian Hymer can be reached at 510-339-4777 or by e-mail at Dian@Dianhymer.com.

Real Estate Spotlight:

Award-winning El Cerrito home



A 1926 CRAFTSMAN DUPLEX in a prime El Cerrito neighborhood at 5325 Silva Ave. has been restored by the interior design team and owners Vernon Applegate and Gioi Tran into a home of award-winning design. The three+bedroom, two-bath, 2,300-square-foot single-family home retains the charm of the Craftsman era but stunning renovation to the entire home has brought this home into the forefront of style and beauty. The kitchen features cherry wood cabinets, granite countertops, hardwood floors and stainless steel appliances.

The sun-filled formal dining room is just steps from the kitchen. A master suite has custom built-in for TV and storage, a walk-in closet, office, redwood deck and beautiful bath. A second large suite with a separate entrance on the lower level is now guest quarters. A sunny bedroom is on the first level along with a luxury bath and study. The piece de resistance of this home is the large landscaped double lot. The garden is truly a focal point and is integrated into the home by the use of large windows throughout that capture the beauty of this special garden.

Price: \$789,000. Open Sunday, Feb. 6, 12:30 - 4 p.m.

Listing agent: Carol Heath-Kim, Prudential Real Estate, 510-525-2346, 510-525-2346; photo tour at www.realtor.com.

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Berkeley \$599,000
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Marina Bay-Richmond \$560,000
Beautiful light-filled 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with partial Bay view. Open floor plan. Level entry. Patio in fenced, landscaped backyard. Double garage with interior access. Great location in prestigious gated community near Bay Trail.

86 Crystal Cove Ct.
Alice Wilson

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El Cerrito \$485,000
Charming 2 bedroom, 1 bath home in central location! Spacious, sunny living room with fireplace, hardwood floors, kitchen w/new floor and stove, new shower and floor in bath, new water heater. Large yard with flowers and many fruit trees. Walking distance to BART, Plaza, FatApple's.

148 Ashbury Ave.
Diana Mendler

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El Cerrito \$475,000
Spacious & warm Mediterranean in desirable neighborhood. Two oversized bedrooms, 2 full baths, lots of bonus space, large eat-in kitchen, pergola & hardwood floors. Charming courtyard entrance, rooftop sundeck over garage. Cute backyard. Two blocks to BART.

624 Richmond St.
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Richmond Annex \$429,000
Enjoy the Old World ambience in this two-bedroom, one bath 1931 bungalow. Features include large breakfast nook, living room with period fireplace, veranda-like front porch, nice garden. In perfect Richmond Annex location.

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Berkeley \$419,000
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Contact agent
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Richmond View \$409,000
Great starter home. Convenient location in Richmond View. Wonderful 3 bedrooms, one bath home with fireplace, hardwood floors, all on a huge lot with expansion possibilities. Upgrades include mostly dual-pane windows, dishwasher, alarm system. Good condition allows for easy living.

766 Kern Street
Juliana Wynberg

Open Sun 1-4
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Richmond \$399,000
Excellent 1st-time buyer opportunity! 3 bds, 1 bath, hardwood floors and extra-deep lot. Freshly painted exterior. Ideal home for someone who needs good separation of space. Covered rear deck adds to many plus areas.

869 Amador St.
Darrell Hoh

Open Sun 12-2
292-3040



Richmond \$378,000
Charming two bedroom, one bath home on quiet cul-de-sac and large lot. Fresh paint inside and out, new roof, new landscaping, refinished hardwood floors, remodeled bathroom.

3212 Moran Ave.
Jean Shrem

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Real Estate Focus:

Upper Rockridge Contemporary has Golden Gate views



THIS SPACIOUS AND VERY STYLISH 1998 contemporary home at 6351 Contra Costa Road in Oakland sits serenely at the end of a private cul-de-sac in one of Upper Rockridge's most desirable neighborhoods. One step through the custom iron gate designed by Emeryville artist Vickie Jo Sowell, into the charming courtyard, and you are captivated by the beauty of the site. The home features lovely formal rooms, four-plus bedrooms, including a large master suite with its own deck, three and one-half baths, a bonus room, a chef's kitchen, two decks and mature landscaping. It has direct views of the SF Bay and Golden Gate Bridge from most rooms in the home. A rare opportunity awaits. Price: \$1,315,000. Open tomorrow, 2 to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday 1 - 4:30 p.m. Agent: Dee Knowland, Pacific Union Real Estate Group, 510-338-1318, or take a photo tour at: www.deeknowlandrealty.com.

'Mite'-y small problem distorts lemons

Q. I have a 20-year old Eureka lemon tree. The tree seems healthy but it produces lemons that are distorted and in odd shapes. They are thick-skinned with little juice. Do you have any idea why the lemons are not a normal shape?

A. You have two different problems with your Eureka lemons. One is an insect problem while the other is cultural. The distortion of the fruit and thickness of the skin is caused by mites. Mites are very tiny and you'll need help from a ten-power magnifying lens to see them. Actually, mites are not insects; they belong to the spider family. They have eight legs while insects only have six.

They will not create any holes in the leaves or chew on the bark instead they suck the plant juices out of the tissue causing the distortion. They start right after fruit set. Horticultural oil is the recommended control, which is okay for use on edibles. You'll make your first application when the fruit is the size of a small pea and then follow up with a second one two weeks later. Another cause of the distortion in citrus fruit is from the drifting spray from an herbicide.

I don't believe that is the case as all the lemons are distorted. Spray drift is usually a single event. Any fruit that sets after the occurrence are not affected. Irregular watering

is the cause of the lack of lemon juice or dry fruits. When the temperatures are over 80, water citrus twice a week. You need a six-inch high watering basin that extends from the trunk to the drip line. In a container, citrus are watered more frequently. When the temperatures are over 75 degrees, water daily.

Q. I was very successful in growing paper white narcissus in a shallow dish of water. They were very fragrant for Thanksgiving Day. What should I do with the bulbs? Do I let them dry out and store them for next year or are they goners?

A. The paper white narcissus or hyacinth bulbs that are grown in water and shallow containers should be thrown away when the flowers are spent. Unlike those bulbs planted in soil, forced bulbs have no capability of rejuvenating themselves for the following year. A bulb is a storage chamber. Besides the food manufactured by the leaves, bulbs will store nutrients from the soil. Once this is completed, the bulb goes dormant. The foliage turns yellow/brown and easily separates from the bulb at ground level. Depending on the bulb type, you can let them naturalize in the soil or dig them up and store them for the following year. There aren't sufficient nutrients in plain water for this to occur.



BUZZ BERTOLERO
The Dirt Gardener

Q. If an apple graft were successful, how soon would I get fruit? Also, does the fruitless rest of the tree have any impact on the graft?

A. You will get fruit on a successful graft even though the rest of the tree is fruitless. The fruit should form in one to two growing seasons after the graft starts growing.

Q. I have 30 roses in two large raised planter boxes. The soil has sunk nearly a foot so I'd like to add more soil. My thoughts are to prune the roses and then extract them from the boxes. I'm planning to keep the bushes in water while adding fresh soil to the planters and then replanting them. Is this going to work?

See BUZZ, Page B4

Managing your income with annuities

As investors, we all have a wide array of financial goals we want to achieve. One thing we can all agree on, though, is that we want to live comfortably in retirement.

In the meantime, we want to be able to send our kids to school, buy our dream home and even set aside money to provide for our loved ones in case something should happen to us. But after working hard your entire life, the last thing you want is to find yourself in a situation where you can not provide for your golden years.

Managing your income during retirement is becoming increasingly difficult, especially as we Americans are living longer than ever before. Consequently, our retirement savings are going to have to last longer.

take out the money when you need it. You need to be cautious though, because you do not want to withdraw more than you earn. Otherwise, you run the risk of running out of money if you deplete your annuity assets too early. Keep in mind, withdrawals of earnings are fully taxable and, if taken before the age of 59 1/2, subject to a 10 percent IRS penalty.

Income for life. Annuities are designed to provide a guaranteed stream of income payments for a



LEILA GOUGH
Money Matters

ment options - tax free investment objectives. One thing to remember, the value of an investment

Managing your income during retirement is becoming increasingly difficult, especially as we Americans are living longer than ever before. Consequently, our retirement savings are going to have to last longer.

certain period of time, for as long as you or you and another person (usually your spouse) live. This income option is referred to as annuitization, and the income can be fixed for the time period chosen or can fluctuate with the market, as illustrated by the following options:

Fixed income for life. This may be an appropriate choice if you want to know exactly how much you will receive with each payment. Fixed payments can be useful if you are still dealing with regular expenses, such as mortgage and car payments.

Factors such as your age, the investment amount and the length of time you receive payments will all help determine the amount.

Variable income for life. Your income has the potential to increase over time with this option and it may help you keep pace with inflation. Your payment amount is based on the performance of the investment options you choose and you can switch among the different invest-

Many deferred annuity features that allow your market returns while providing a guaranteed amount of your original investment. Other features ensure a steady stream of income even if the market value of the annuity falls with market performance.

These types of products allow you to invest in the market because you know the minimum amount of money you can receive at a point in time in a down market. Protection features are available.

Annuities may not solve all your income needs, but they can be a big help. Asking ahead is the first step in securing your financial future. A closer look at annuities can help you see how they can work for you.

Leila Gough is an Associated Press columnist. She is a member of the National Association of Public Relations, Inc. in Oakland, Calif. She can be reached at 510-452-8900.

Less mess, stress for moving homeowners

BY KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
NEWPORT NEWS (VA.) DAILY PRESS

Elizabeth and Lewis Parsons have no trouble letting go. They're ditching kitchenware, knickknacks and endless stacks of paperwork from the two homes they owned when they married in August.

"My idea was to knock a hole in the eave and shove it all into a Dumpster," says Elizabeth, 80. She laughs at the idea of old business records, Christmas decorations, discarded clothes and unwanted household items flying out the side of the attic where it's all been stashed for 48 years.

The nearby house where Lewis, 82, has lived since 1956 is just as bad, they say. He's even been called a "pack rat." Both had spouses who died several years ago.

"My children got a lot of things like silver and dishware," he says.

Neither Elizabeth nor Lewis want to take care of a big house or yard anymore, so they moved into a 940-square-foot apartment at The Arbors, a retirement community.

They decided to start fresh, with mostly new stuff that would be better scaled to the smaller size of their new living quarters.

See STRESS, Page B3

SIMPLIFY LIFE

Magazines that address simple lifestyles include Simple Living, www.simplieliving.com and Real Simple, www.realsimple.com. You'll also find de-cluttering through Clutter Anonymous, www.clutteranonymous.com. For additional interior design ideas, look under "interior design" in the Yellow Pages.

Great Find In Albany!

Open Sunday!

This little house is bigger than it looks! Sunny, enclosed front porch, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen, new hardwood floors, 3BD/2BA! Sweet deck off the kitchen, private backyard, and the large attic and basement provide lots storage space. Conveniently located in the heart of Albany, close to Plaza shops, BART, Memorial Park & Albany Pool. **\$535,000.**

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Open Sundays ~ February 6th and 13th, 1-4 pm

Berkeley - \$599,000
1629 Blake St.

Two-Unit, Edwardian-style Single Family Home with investment income, built in 1905. Upper unit has high ceilings with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, lower unit has 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. Both units separately metered. Spacious backyard, off-street parking and located close to the UC campus; on a tree-lined street.

Bill Shaw
Broker Associate
510-524-8508
billshawjr@aol.com
1484 Solano Avenue, Albany, CA 94706

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HILLS NEWSPAPERS

BERKELEY VOICE / THE JOURNAL / MONTCLAIR JOURNAL / PIEDMONT / ALAMEDA JOURNAL

Sharing our happiness

Number 481 in a series of true experiences in real estate. Following is a medley of happy experiences and discoveries we've recently had.

The sewer line backed up at our new place. That was the bad part, but not that all sorts of rosy things happened.

The house was vacant and water had overflowed into the house. One of our helpers stopped by the house at the perfect time. She was mopping up water before any of it could run onto the beautiful, just-finished hardwood floors.

And she called us. We happened to be in the car not far from the house so we started driving. As we drove, we called Paul Winans, Central Plumbing & Rooter, who called back. Unbelievably, he was in his truck only a few blocks from us, so he drove to the house.

Very quickly, Paul stopped the car, assured us we were dealing with rainwater, not sewage, and gave us a bid and date for further work. We mopped some more; damage was done to the house, happily ending.

On another day, we went to Win Appliances to look at dishwashers. For another listing, a marvelous house built in 1927, we were going to add a dishwasher. We measured the depth of the original yellow tile counter at a mere 18 inches. Dishwashers, we knew, were generally 24 inches deep.

Still, we were hopeful, because another listing sometime before, we had had himself installed a dishwasher in his original old, tiled, shallow-depth counter – a beautiful dishwasher just like the one we have in our own kitchen.

So, we went to Galvin, and were greeted by Ken Barta, the beginning of other happy experiences. He knows dishwashers – sizes, prices, costs. He was sure that a

Bosch would indeed fit into the space. It was simply a matter of choosing which model.

Ken is articulate and efficient. In a matter of minutes he'd told us everything we needed to know, printed out a spec sheet on the model of our choice and walked us to the door. He is our kind of salesman!

Next we talked to our contractor Shaun O'Quinn who would be attending to the installation. We were trying to figure what would have to come out in order to make an opening sufficient for the dishwasher. Two sets of drawers, equal in width, were in the space to the left of the sink. Neither set was quite wide enough.

We admire old kitchen cabinetry, sturdy and well joined as it is, and whenever possible, we vote to keep it.

Shaun is a miracle. He removed one drawer set and then, to get the extra width necessary, he moved one side of the under-the-sink space an inch, taking another bit from the upright between the sets of drawers. Hey, happy dishwashing!

We love sushi. Lately we've been going to Serika in Orinda, set among the shops next door to the theater. We can't seem to get enough, and have gone as many as 3 times in one week. The miso soup at Serika is the best we've ever had. Anet always says as she slips and swallows that wonderful hot brew, "Doesn't it just make you feel healed and good?"

The green tea, too, is delicious. We wish we could make this same tea at home but we don't know where to find it. Sushi, sashimi, tempura, all are perfection. A very happy discovery for us.

We were at Smith & Hawken in Berkeley, had picked out some things we wanted, including a new falling-flower-form of hydrangeas.



TARPOFF AND ALBERT
True Experiences

Anet handed the clerk a gift card a client had once sent to us. The clerk ran the number through the computer.

"Sorry," she nicely told us, "There is no money on this card." She called accounting on the phone. "No record," she was told. Anet got on the phone and was asked for the zip code of the person who gave us the card, then her name, and finally her credit card number.

We do not, of course, know our client's credit card number, and we were not about to call her to ask about the gift. Meanwhile, another clerk was listening to what was going on. He took it on himself to make another phone call, this one to customer service.

And he actually did it, got our gift card "reinstated." As we thanked him for service above and beyond, he told us that he had recently started his own business, and he agreed with us. He, too, would be uncomfortable asking a client for more info on a gift she'd sent.

What sort of business is Adam Stein doing outside his hours at Smith & Hawken? Catering. With his two sisters, Three Pears Catering serves San Francisco and the East Bay.

Would Adam like to make sandwiches for our next agent open house? Absolutely. And so, on the spot, we hired him. Adam is professional and thoughtful. His sandwiches were tasty and a big hit – roast beef with mango chutney, and vegetarian grilled onions and mushrooms with goat cheese.

While I'm talking of food and

See TARPOFF, Page B4

Take the 'scary' out of remodeling

Embarking on a remodeling project can be pretty scary! You are likely going to spend more money on this one "purchase" than anything else except the home you are having remodeled. Obviously you want it all to go perfectly, don't want to be taken advantage of and want to be pleased, thrilled even, with the end product.

So how can this happen? How can you simply write checks and hope that the people actually performing the work get it right? Shouldn't you be on top of everything all the time to make sure nothing goes wrong?

Some sound advice

Following is some advice that hopefully will make your life a bit easier and make you less apprehensive about remodeling.

Let's start at the beginning. You should have confidence and trust in the person you decide to work with should. Don't hire someone just because they have the lowest price. Do hire someone because you feel you can trust them with your largest asset! How do you know that?

First, check your gut. Of course when a stranger walks in the door you are going to be a bit wary. Check your intuition as the meeting proceeds; does your guard continue to be up or are you feeling more at ease?

Now check references. If other homeowners felt comfortable working with this company that's a good sign. Whenever you check a reference, don't forget to ask, "What happened when there was a problem or conflict?" If the person flew off the handle or blew off the homeowner that's a bad sign. On the other hand, if there was an exchange of points of

view and a mutually acceptable compromise reached, that's a good sign.

Panic sets in

OK, you've found the person or company you can trust, and the work is about to start. Panic sets in once again. Take a deep breath and remember you and the contractor (and design professional if involved) are partners in the project. You are not enemies; you are on the same side. Why did you hire this company? Because you did your homework and you hired the company that provided you with the most confidence and trust.

What is the best way to continue to have that feeling of trust and to end up with the project of your dreams?

Let the contractor know if there is any question about a matter as soon as possible. Don't be intimidated by buzz words or drawings you don't understand; people in any area of expertise forget that others might not have the same grasp of the "language" as they do. Simply ask if you have questions.

Remember that the contractor has provided a fixed price for doing a specific project within a specific amount of time. If you are going to alter the scope of work during the course of the project remember that it will likely alter the price and the amount of time it will take the work to get done. If you request changes remember that at the end of the project when it has taken longer or costs more than originally agreed.

Don't nickle and dime the contractor. Don't nit-pick the cost of specific items. A reputable contractor is running a



PAUL WINANS
From the Ground Up

Here is some advice that hopefully will make embarking on a remodeling job a bit easier and make you less apprehensive about remodeling.

business with direct costs and overhead like any other. If you allow the business to operate successfully it is likely you'll receive back the goodwill you are sending out. Also, that business will still be there if you need it in the future.

Remember that remodeling is unpredictable. No one wants surprises but it is inevitable that they will happen. Because there is an atmosphere of trust there is an unarticulated commitment from all involved that they will work together to provide the best solution to any problem that arises.

Yes, remodeling is definitely scary, messy and expensive. Keeping the previous tips in mind though may make what is inherently an unpleasant experience a bit more bearable. You might even be thrilled in the end!

Paul Winans can be reached at 510-653-7288 or at wincon-inc.com.

Stress

PAGE B2

Starting rid of what they owned was a big problem.

The couple hired local design consultant Teri Zodda of Roomscapes by tz to help them decide what to take and what to leave behind. Zodda also selected new furniture for the apartment.

In the end, the Parsons took four Elizabeth's nicest mirrors, two wing-backed chairs and some room furniture. They also kept personal items like the miniature Lewis collectibles and an Englewood set Elizabeth cherishes. "It was in Teri's hands, and we didn't see the apartment until she was done," Elizabeth says.

"We're totally pleased," Lewis says. In addition to helping make decisions on possessions, Zodda also helped them to get it ready for sale. She also brings in a professional company to handle the sale.

A former real estate agent,

Zodda started her business in 1997 to help homeowners ready their property for sale. It's a process called "staging" - placing furniture, establishing the right lighting and getting rid of personal effects in a for-sale home so would-be buyers can imagine themselves living there.

Now she also helps homeowners go through what she calls the "purging process," getting themselves organized, downsized and liberated from clutter and unnecessary belongings.

"People keep clutter around them for several personal reasons," says Zoda. "Maybe they grew up with very little and now since they can afford items, they keep buying without replacing them."

"But too many things are stressful. I try to guide them to let go and let someone else 'in need' enjoy it. Change the way you think about things and purging can begin."

Home organizer Laurie Gardner agrees people must change the way they feel about clutter before they can take on a simpler life.

"It's behavior modification," she says.

Gardner specializes in paper management, helping people set up filing systems that are efficient to use and easy for surviving families to follow when deaths occur. Her fees are \$50 for a consultation, then \$30 an hour for organizational work.

She started her services three years ago after leaving a 20-year career in the financial world where she went through numerous corporate buyouts.

"You are either organized or you don't make it," she says of the financial field.

She also downsized her personal life, setting up house in a 1,000-square-foot residence.

"The more things we have the more time we expend on taking care of those things."

"My philosophy is: If I don't love it or I don't use it, I don't have it."

THIS WEEK'S OPEN HOME GUIDE IS ON B17.

The GRUBB Co.

8522 Wilson Avenue
Charming three bedroom, two bath Laurel bungalow.
Originally offered at \$489,000
Sold with three offers
Represented the Seller

101 Pine Hills Lane
Fabulous five bedroom, three bath Montclair contemporary.
Originally offered at \$699,000
Sold with eight offers
Represented the Buyers

DANA COHEN
OFFICE: 339.0400/348
dcohen@grubbco.com

5325 Silva Ave. El Cerrito
AWARD WINNING HOME. This three plus bedroom, two bath Craftsman home has been featured in numerous magazines. Stunning custom renovations to this 1926 gem have brought the home into the forefront of style and luxury, offering a luxurious Master suite, formal dining, gourmet kitchen, guest suite, exquisite bathrooms and much more.
The double landscaped lot is a spectacular park.
\$789,000
Carol Heath-Kim
510-525-2346
Take a photo tour at www.realtor.com

5679 Carberry Avenue, Oakland
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This lovingly maintained three bedroom, two bath storybook home has light and spacious rooms, including formal dining room, cheerful breakfast room and gorgeous family room/study.
Offered at \$525,000

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JUDITH LYNCH

HISTORIAN BETTY MARVIN as "Miss Morgan" inside a home that Julia Morgan designed in Alameda's Gold Coast neighborhood.

Meet Julia Morgan

ALAMEDA ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Historian Betty Marvin will present the slide show "Julia Morgan, Architect," 7 p.m., Sunday, March 13, at the First Presbyterian Church on the corner of Santa Clara Avenue and Chestnut Street in Alameda. Marvin, who oversees the Historic Resources Survey Collective at the Oakland City Planning Department, will assume Morgan's dress, posture and persona during her talk.

Morgan graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with an engineering degree before she traveled to Paris. There she became the first woman accepted in the archi-

itecture section of the École des Beaux Arts. Her career flourished in the architectural boom that came on the destructive heels of the Great San Francisco Earthquake and Fire in April 1906.

Morgan is most famed for her three decades of toil for William Randolph Hearst at San Simeon's Hearst's Castle. However, her substantial accomplishments include more than 700 completed buildings. She designed 12 homes in Alameda.

Admission is free for members of the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society, \$5 for non-members.

For more information, call 510-986-9232.

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

FOR THE PUBLIC

Tidal Wave

Help is needed. The National Association of Realtors and Habitat for Humanity united to help tidal wave victims. The partners will build "Realtor Villages" to help tsunami victims who lost their homes. The villages will move the homeless from temporary shelters. NAR's goal is \$1 million for the Realtor Tsunami Relief Project and to build 1000 units. Every penny will go to the project. Check with your local Realtor association for contribution information or go to www.realtor.com.

Sales

Home sales are due to level off after four consecutive record years. Although sales should remain close to record levels in 2005, according to the National Association of Realtors. NAR's chief economist said, "a modest slowdown in home price appreciation will be healthy for the market, offering sellers a good return on their investment while keeping prices within reach for homebuyers."

Buzz

FROM PAGE B2

A. This is a very workable solution. With 30 rose bushes to prune, move and replant, you have a project that will take several weekends to complete. It is not necessary to keep the roses in water for days on end. Remove them from the planters with soil on their roots or "bare-root" them. The roses with a root ball intact can be grouped together, moistened and then loosely covered with a tarp. Stack the plants on top of one another.

You "bare root" these plants by washing the soil off the roots. They are then laid vertically on a flat surface, which could be dirt or even concrete. Cover the roots with moistened potting soil and a tarp.

Free

Learn how much home you can afford, how to qualify for a loan and why you need a Realtor, at "Buying Your First Home". The free seminar is 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 12 at the Oakland City Center Wells Fargo Bank. Each attendee receives a free credit report. Make a reservation with presenters from "Your Home Team Advantage" (a group of professionals from mortgage, title and Gallagher & Lindsey Realtors) by visiting GallagherAndLindsey.com or calling 510-865-4192 ext. 300.

Montclair

Attend "How To Buy Your First Home In Oakland" in the Montclair district of Oakland. This free seminar is 9:30 to 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 12, at Montclair Better Homes on Mountain Boulevard. Get the information needed to have an edge over other buyers. Enjoy a light breakfast and prizes. RSVP by calling David Sykes at 510-339-4558.

Confused?

Terry Kulka teaches "Take The Confusion Out Of Your Home Purchase". This Piedmont Adult School class is 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 5. Bring your questions

about home purchases in the Oakland/Piedmont area. Call 510-594-2716 for registration and tuition information.

Assistance

The Home Buyer Assistance Center in Oakland offers an information session, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 7. Learn about a new program that could make you a homeowner. Reserve a seat by calling 510-832-6925 ext. 100.

Careers

Have you ever wondered about a career in real estate? Want to know what it takes? What type of schooling is involved? How do I prepare for the exam? The answers to your questions are available through the Noble Fields School of Real Estate. For more information call the Oakland office at 510-451-7977 or the main office, in San Francisco at 415-956-6169.

ORLANDO

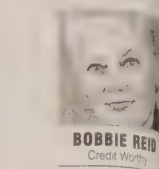
The 2005 RE/Max International Convention: Making Your Dreams A Reality is Sunday, Feb. 27 through Tuesday, March 2. RE/Max Realtors will gather at Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. Two training classes are offered Saturday, Feb. 26. Broker BackOffice Pro fully automates office processes. AgentOffice automates every aspect of real estate sales. Learn more by visiting www.remax.net.

PERFORMANCE

Level3 Performance Training promises less prospecting and more sales. Become a top producer. Level3 invites Realtors to attend a no cost, no obligation program orientation. Training for entire offices is available. Call Eric Eng at 510-376-8719.

WHO?

Karen Davis is known in the Berkeley real estate community as a class instructor for classes sponsored by Placer Title. The classes were so well received that she will

BOBBIE REID
Credit Worth

be sharing her knowledge about Alameda County information is available at 510-

Experts in historical culture and local author Evanovsky and Eric Koe at the audience at the Alameda Museum Lecture. Their book, The East Bay Now is a coffee table book with 70 photos of our towns and our towns now. Learn alamedamuseum.org.

Speaking of the movies, the Then And Now series and lecture is underwritten by Janelle Spatz of Bay Area Estate. Spatz is also a member of the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society.

Prudential California Manger Mike Downes, manager Tracy-Gateway and Jim Manger of the Danville office a raffle prize. The prize is donated by PCR to the favorite charities. Ask MACROBUTTON HtmlMail1 www.purealty.com.

Victor Ratto Manger Bev Muncer as a well Banker Oakland-Pacer assistant manager. Producing agent joined years ago, after a lengthy music industry. He congratulates at 510-36-

WHAT?

I'll announce your new this column if you send the information deadline is two before the event. Send bobbieid@mindspring.com your info to me at 510-44-

Tarpoiff

FROM PAGE B3

happy events, I must tell of the miniature wedding cake made for us for another open house. Our theme for this small one-bedroom house in Albany was June wedding.

It came to me that we had to have a wedding cake, a small one. I briefly considered baking one myself, thought better of it and called Spun Sugar, a baking supply and candy store in Berkeley, which, I knew, also offers cake-decorating classes.

When I called, I was referred to Sonya, to whom I described my vision. I knew I'd found the right person when she said, "This sounds like fun."

Sonya baked and decorated the most perfect cake I've ever seen, three layers, 10-, 8- and 6-inch rounds. All white frosting with lacy white piping on the sides. We set the cake on a doily-covered plate and decorated it with baby pink rosebuds.

I enjoyed seeing that cake, then cutting and serving teeny pieces to agents more than it is possible to

tell. It was like the ultimate tea party, and very happy.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpoiff are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and at www.tarpoiffandtalbert.com.



1635 Prince Street, Berkeley

Fantastic investment opportunity. 6 Units, each with 2 bdrm & 1 bth. Well maintained with new roof, fresh exterior paint, updated kitchens & baths. Prime location with parking & next to small children's park.

Asking \$1,200,000

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2933 & 2935 Florida St.

Open Sunday, Feb. 6th 1-4 PM

\$489,000

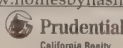
Lovely Vintage Home
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Plus, Legal Apartment



Adrienne Nash, CRS
Oakland Native, Oakland/Berkeley Specialist
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- Large 2 bed. Craftsman home w/legal apartment downstairs.
- Up: Lovely architectural features: wood floors, built-in, etc.
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Visual Tour + full MLS:
www.homesbynash.com



The GRUBB Co.



1932 Los Angeles Avenue, Berkeley

By APPOINTMENT. This gracious traditional home is located on a quiet street within close proximity to Solano Avenue shops and restaurants. Situated on an oversized lot, this home features an extraordinary park-like garden. There are bedrooms, two and one half baths, large living room with fireplace, formal dining room, updated eat-in kitchen and a single car garage.

Offered at \$985,000



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A sampling of our current listings:

	Pine Lake 3 bedroom, 2 bath beauty built in 1940 is close to shopping, transportation, Stern Grove, Lake Merced and the Ocean. Large living room, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen that looks out on the center patio. \$749,000
	Oakland Craftsman style home currently used as a duplex. 4 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths up; 1 bedroom, 1 bath down. Approx. 2,900 sq. ft. of living space. \$865,000
	Anza Vista Elegant corner home on a double lot. 4 bedrooms, 4 baths on 2 levels. Eat-in kitchen. 2 fireplaces, refinished inlaid floors. 2 car side-by-side garage. Close to Fillmore shopping, Japantown and walking distance to Golden Gate Park. \$1,550,000

Prudential

California Real Estate

Jim Hed

manager

415-762-9

2241 Market St.

San Francisco

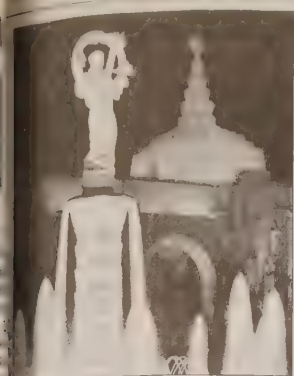
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San Francisco

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Sausalito



COURT OF FLOWERS at the 1939-40 World's Fair on Treasure Island.

Video celebrates 1939 World's Fair

ALAMEDA MUSEUM
When Alameda's filmmaker Billy Pagano died, he left a valuable legacy of vintage video and film. A new Pagano film has been released — courtesy of Alameda Power & Telecom and the Alameda Museum. The subject is the 1939-40 World's Fair, dubbed the Golden Gate International Exposition.

The World's Fair was created to celebrate the opening of the Bay and Golden Gate bridges. The "Pageant of the Pacific" attracted exhibits and fair-goers from around the world.

A veritable wonderland of Art Deco structures arose on the newly developed Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay.

Film highlights include the Tower of the Sun, the Elephant Towers, the Court of Pacifica, and the Arc of Triumph. Billy Rose's famous Aquacade is featured, as are night scenes at the Fair and attractions in the Fun Zone, called The Gaiety.

This 24-minute color video is available for \$17 in both VHS and DVD format at Pagano's, 1100 Lincoln Ave. in Alameda, 510-522-1345, and at the Alameda Museum, 1234 Alameda Ave. Please call 510-523-5907 for hours.

To learn more, call Diane Coler-Dark at 510-523-5907.

HADDON HILL CRAFTSMAN GEM



524 Spruce

This lovingly restored 2 story, 3 bedroom Craftsman has it all!

- Sunny living room w/wood fireplace
- Spacious dining room w/built-ins
- Huge kitchen featuring nickel-plated countertops & new appliances
- Redwood decking & magnificent garden
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- Gleaming hardwood floors
- Close to everything — Piedmont, Lakeshore & Grand

Offered at \$699,000
Rose (510) 444-4480

★ ★ NEW TEMESCAL LISTING! ★ ★



3 Bedrooms & 1 Bathroom
519 43rd Street
Offered @ \$449,000

Original Charm & Detailing w/
Remodeled Kitchen & Bath

There have been searching for an affordable starter home with some extra room to handle the bustle of Temescal, then this home is worth a visit. The character of the house has been lovingly maintained and was just painted. Many of the original features of this home remain today, like the brick walls, wainscoting, and front porch. This sunny home features 3 bedrooms, a remodeled kitchen and bathroom. The open floor plan is really nice and allows easy access to all the rooms. There is a laundry off the bathroom and a dryer included. The sunny backyard is the perfect place for a BBQ and family. With its sunny southern exposure you will want to roll up the awnings and play in the garden. A large space under the house exists and is just waiting to be upgraded for more storage or a new room and upgraded systems. Close and make this home an excellent investment.

This home is located in the Historic and Bustling Temescal Shopping District on Telegraph Avenue Shops and Restaurants, including Doni and Genova Delicatessen. Just 3 blocks to the MacArthur Bypass, plus quick access to Freeways and the Bay Bridge. A gem, a gem, a gem. Last year was the inaugural Temescal Fair that really showed how the neighborhood is growing and making a real destination. It was a huge success and next year will be even better. Also, the rich diversity of Oakland was represented there. And Great Coffee is just down Telegraph at 43rd Temescal Cafe.

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ONLINE TOUR @ www.519-43rd.Com

www.KeikoSellsHomes.com



"Renovated"
Colonial Revival
Duplex

1410 Central Ave
Alameda, CA
\$850,000

Located in the heart of Alameda, this duplex offers many possibilities. Both units are 3bed/2bath and beautifully remodeled. Great for owner occupied with rental unit. For the first time home buyers, this is a great opportunity to purchase with a friend as "Tenants In Common" and live in Alameda for less than you would pay for a condo, with no HOA dues!

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Remember to be a good neighbor while remodeling

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS

While remodeling a home can be an exciting adventure, home owners need to remember that neighbors may not be quite as thrilled with the project as they are. In fact, the closest neighbors may find projects downright bothersome. Before starting the home of their dreams, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Remodelers Council advises home owners

to inform the neighborhood of their plans, length of construction time and who will be doing the remodeling job.

"Many people do not realize that bringing in contractors for several weeks or even months can affect the neighborhood," said 2004 Remodelers Council Chairman Doug Sutton CGR, CAPS of Sutton Siding & Remodeling, a remodeler in Springfield, Ill. "While most remodel-

ers hand out fliers to immediate neighbors explaining their plans, we encourage homeowners to contact their neighbors personally to answer any questions about the project's impact and duration, and distribute the remodeler's contact information in case there are questions or problems."

To help keep the peace in the neighborhood, the NAHB Remodelers Council advises that homeowners:

- Let neighbors know well in advance about your remodeling plans and keep them apprised of progress, detail by detail. Tell them when work will begin, the approximate completion date, what work will be done and whether workers might have to come onto their property. If delays arise, promptly contact your neighbors to inform them of the revised schedule

- Make sure noisy power tools are only used during standard business hours. Reasonable hours are 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

- Inform your neighbors of any

large trucks entering the neighborhood and ask subcontractors to park on one side of the street only. Try your best to have materials dropped off in your driveway or yard rather than the street, and keep your yard as tidy as possible.

Watch for debris that might find its way onto your neighbors' yards, especially if a roofing project is involved.

- Remove dumpsters as quickly as possible. If you have room left in your last dumpster, invite neighbors to dump anything they might have lurking in their garage that needs tossing.

- If the neighbors are unhappy with an aspect of your project, promptly visit them to apologize. Consider bringing a peace offering such as brownies or muffins. When your project is complete, show your neighbors your appreciation by throwing them a party. You can thank them for their patience and proudly show off your remodeled house.

Seminar points way to success

OLYMPIA FUNDING

The Small Business Administration boasts twenty-five million American companies fall into the small business category. On the positive side that number is growing. However, according to the Business Exchange Center (BEC) 50 to 90 percent of all new companies fail in the first two years. Why do some survive when others fail?

It seems the top answer to business is planning. TNot having a business plan is a recipe for failure. The BEC recommends tapping the wealth of professional knowledge out there and seeking experienced advice.

"Better Business Through Successful Systems" will teach owners to develop their business through systems and accountability. This free seminar is held regularly in a variety of Bay Area locations. Learn about the date and location of the next free class at 925-469-2247 or e-mail kmessina@ofloan.com.

ness plan is a recipe for failure. The BEC recommends tapping the wealth of professional knowledge out there and seeking experienced advice.

HERITAGE REAL ESTATE

FINE HOMES & ESTATES

HeritageRealEstate.com

DANVILLE \$4,150,000 45 Acres above Crow Canyon Country Club. Tentative map for 8 lots. Land requires road easement across another parcel of land not included in price. Beautiful lots looking over valley. Great project to work on in 2005. Mel Copland (510) 339-8900	SAN RAMON PENDING \$964,900 Beautiful 5 BR / 3 BA home in Thomas Ranch. 2715 Sq. Ft. Brand new hardwood & marble flooring. Gourmet kitchen with granite slab island and brand new appliances. New landscaping in backyard. Amy Psomas (925) 455-0505
DIABLO Price Upon Request Approx. 5.5 ac. fronting historic Diablo Lake. Includes personal dock. Lighted tennis and sport court. Pool/Spa. 5 BR / 3.5 BA. Master en suite. 2 BR / 1 BA guest wing. Next to Mt. Diablo State Park. Janet Sweeney & Susanna Schlendorf (925) 334-1500	UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$795,000 Well located, spacious sunny home with large decks and family room. Walk to Hillcrest school. Phil Weingrow (510) 339-8900
BERKELEY \$599,000 Four unit building in desirable Berkeley neighborhood. Great opportunity for anyone looking for investment property. Low main income. Low pest. Close to 4th street shops. A must see! Sarah Schisler (510) 339-8900	LIVERMORE \$594,500 4 BR / 2 BA. Approximately 1679 sq. ft. All new fresh interior paint. Newer updated kitchen with tile countertops. Dual panel windows in entry, living & dining room. Central heat, air & whole house fan. Roll up garage door with opener. In ground swimming pool and spa. Carolyn & Dave Forsberg (925) 455-0500
BRENTWOOD PENDING \$639,000 Wonderful court location with beautiful views. 4 BR, 3 full baths. Fireplace in family room & master suite. Hardwood floors. Granite counters, etc. Penny Piston (925) 455-0505	TRACY \$612,000 Like new Discovery model at Lourance Ranch! 4 BR / 3 BA. Island kitchen with maple cabinets and tile counters. Huge master suite w/ walk-in closet. Large oval tub. Separate shower & dual sinks. Possibly furnished. Brian Davis (925) 455-0505
DISCOVERY BAY \$610,000 Super 5 BR / 4 BA, one bed and bath down, family room kitchen combined. Central Vac air purifier, large loft upstairs, laundry upstairs, very clean and neutral. Only 2 years old. Lynne Phillips (925) 455-0505	PITTSBURG \$525,800 Big, bold and beautiful. Gorgeous steel-framed 4 yr old contemporary with 5 BR / 2.5 BA that's better than new. New community park and very close to BART and 5 lane Highway 4. Long Nguyen (925) 935-9100
WALNUT CREEK \$520,000 Updated 2 Bedrooms + family room + finished attic. Walk to BART & town. View of trees and grass. Kay Lanway (925) 935-9100	MONTCLAIR \$195,000 Build your dream home in the Montclair Hills. Quiet hide-a-way. Upslope with buildable pad. Sarah Schisler (510) 339-8900

DISTINGUISHED HOME OF THE WEEK



Gold Coast Victorian beauty! Huge 6 BR / 3 BA home with 14ft. ceilings, hardwood floors, multiple fireplaces and many upgrades. Per City - a legal tri-plex, currently used as a duplex. Awesome top floor 2 BR / 2 BA rented unit. Gorgeous details throughout.

Offered At: \$1,199,000

ALAMEDA

Andrea Gordon
(510) 339-8900

Open Homes

BERKELEY \$529,000
2112 Curtis St.
3 BR / 1 BA. Open Sun 12:30PM
Anida Weyl (510) 339-8900

MILLSMONT/LEONA \$389,000
4011 BURCKHALTER
2 BR / 1 BA. Open Sun 11:30-3:00PM
Hal Castle (510) 339-8900

RICHMOND \$359,000
2010 Coalanga Ave
2 BR / 1 BA. Open Sun 12:30PM.
Heather Gonzalez (510) 339-8900

Buyers' Corner

OAKLAND HILLS/ UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$850,000-1,100,000
Family with small children seeks traditional home with level garden and views of the bay.
Kate Castle (510) 339-8900

LAMORINDA/WALNUT CREEK \$700,000-900,000
Professional couple seeking home in tranquil setting with outdoor living potential and proximate to walking trails and BART.
Catherine Truelove (510) 339-8900

*All Buyers Are Pre-approved

DANVILLE
925.314.1500

LAFAYETTE
925.935.9100

LIVERMORE
925.455.0505

MONTCLAIR
510.339.8900

ROCKLIN
916.626.3600

Relocation Services 1.800.708.7356

Legacy First Financial 925.975.4300



2112 CURTIS ST. \$529,000
Open Sun 12:30-3:00PM
Alameda frame plus income on large lot. Gleaming hardwood floors. Beautifully remodeled kitchen & bath. One bedroom, one bath in law.
Anida Weyl (510) 339-8900



LAKE MERRITT \$2,100/mo.
Panoramic view of Lake Merritt and the East Bay Hills are seen from this spacious 2 BR / 2 BA co-op in Oakland's Lakeside. White glove building with 24 hour doorman service. All rooms open to a 40' tiled terrace. Convenient to BART, shopping, and the Lake activities.
Tom Erwin (510) 339-8900



4011 BURCKHALTER \$389,000
Open Sun 11:30-3:00PM
Immaculate 40% view traditional in upper Millsmont area. Beautiful front yard, garden, all hardwood. Hardwood flooring throughout. Newer kitchen and new bath. Formal dining. Attached garage w/ access. Fireplace. 2BR / 1BA.
Hal Castle (510) 339-8900



2010 COALANGA AVE \$359,000
Open Sun 12:30-3:00PM
Garden's delight! Bright and w/ fruit trees, hardwood floors, remodeled kitchen. Freshly painted. Move in condition.
Heather Gonzalez (510) 339-8900

Sell that house, don't just hand it over

Q. My husband and I own a house, and it is in both our names. The mortgage will be paid off in about five years. Before or after, we would like the house to become officially our son's house, but continue to live in it until we decide to live in a retirement home, or until we pass away. We would be quasi-paying rent to our son. Do we trust our son. The question is whether this is a good "business" move, i.e. tax or whatever. Any advice or referral for advice will be very much appreciated.

A. If you really do trust your son, sell it to him at a fair price and rent it back from him as you say. Or, you might be able to sell it to him but you and your husband retain a life estate in the property. The fair price he would pay you would obviously reflect the life estate interest you retain. The life estate you retain lowers the fair price he would have to pay to you to compensate him for your occupancy rights. This could then lower your tax liabilities.

When a person has a "life estate" in a piece of property, he or she enjoys almost the same rights in that property as would a property owner, but only for his or her remaining life. As a "life tenant," you could do pretty much as you would like with the house, but you would also be responsible for maintaining the property in good condition. At any time in the future you and/or your husband could relinquish or "sell" him the life estate interest you individually or jointly own. Regardless of what you decide to do, please see an attorney because it is very easy to mess these kinds of things up trying to do them yourself.

Q. In February I had a washing machine hose break in the middle of the night. So far it has caused around \$20,000 in repairs due to the water damage with some of the damage caused by the insurance contractor - he created some mold problems when he didn't properly open the wall up and allow it to dry.

Now I am told I will likely be canceled or put into a high-risk/high-cost insurance category. The worst problem is this: I would like to sell my home but because of the house going into high risk or cancellation, I believe that the value of my home will likely go down far more than the repairs because of the mold. Is there anything I can do to keep from taking such a huge loss?

A: Your plight is certainly a nightmare that no one would want. If the damage you claim was truly caused by the contractor's negligence, then you probably have a good case to litigate. Contact an attorney immediately to see if some type of compensation can be gained that will either completely fix the mold situation or pay you for any loss in value caused by the contractor.

Q. My mother died Dec. 30, 2003 at her permanent residence. She had my brother and I put on a quit-claim deed in 1996 although this was not our permanent residence. Immediately following her death, we had two comparative market analyses done on the home by two different Realtors: One stated the fair market value at \$145,000 and the other between \$135,000 and \$142,000. We sold the house July 22, 2004 for \$129,000. The question is: how would we figure a capital gain or loss on the sale of the house?

A. Your capital gain or loss is determined by the difference between your adjusted basis in the property (for simplicity, the net book value) and its net selling price. Because you received a quit-claim deed for the property in 1996, that is when your initial basis in the property was established.

However, depending on gift tax rules and other information not provided here, the hard answer as to how much of a gain or loss exists cannot be determined. My advice is for you to contact a tax attorney and/or CPA to help you through this process of determining your basis in the property as of the date of the quit-claim deed. Then, and only then, can you determine any gain or loss.

Q. I would like to share with you a problem that is mind-boggling to

me. I entered into a standard real estate transaction to sell my property. Both buyer and seller were represented by real estate agents. The forms used to present the offer and the acceptance were the standard agreement forms used by all real estate agents in this part of Pennsylvania. The sale was presented as a cash offer, not contingent on financing, and the closing date was established.

Four days before the scheduled

closing the buyer decided to withdraw his offer and through his agent presented me, the seller, with a release form to allow him to withdraw from the contract. He had found a

See HAMILTON, Page B9



TOM HAMILTON
Real Estate USA

JUST LISTED - OPEN SUN 2-4:30

65 Wyngaard Ave., Piedmont

Located on a lovely street, this charming 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath traditional, with Art Deco accents, offers wonderful indoor-outdoor living on a sunny site with filtered south Bay views.

Offered at \$1,695,000



Dian Hymer, CRS
Associate Broker
Previous Property Specialist
510-339-4777
Photo Tours At:
dianhymer.com



COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Coming Soon



Claremont Hills

This lovely home is nestled in a quiet jewel of a setting with expansive views of Claremont Canyon. This living area with beautiful hardwood floors has an open floor plan with fireplace and decks overlooking the canyon. On a separate level there are a total of 3 bedrooms that include a master bedroom with its own private deck, a total of 2 1/2 bathrooms, and a spacious family room.

Offered at \$749,000



Claudia Bowman
510-339-4729
claudiabowman@sbcglobal.net

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patti.camras@camoves.com



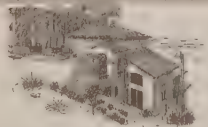
Memories begin here! Tucked away on a private cul-de-sac, this charming ranch style home was updated in 1991. Exuding both charm and grace, it features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, and approximately 1580 square feet of easy, one-level living. Hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, dual pane windows, and skylights accent the open floor plan. Newly landscaped lawns in the front and back yards combine with the lovely deck to make outdoor living a pure joy!

Photos on www.patticamras.com

WELLS & BENNETT REALTORS

1451 LEIMERT BLVD., OAKLAND
(510) 531-7000
www.wellsandbennett.com

OPEN SUNDAY 12-2:30



6689 SKYLINE BLVD \$1,749,000
Montclair. Stunning new Mediterranean home with panoramic views! Great floor plan features 3 bedrooms, 3 and one half baths, family room, formal dining room, office space and recreation room. Abundant use of hardwood, ironwork & stone.
Mary Neuberger 510-531-7000 x251

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30



901 HILLDALE AVENUE \$1,450,000
Berkeley. View home in Berkeley hills close to Solano. 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, new construction, great creative finishes, bamboo floors, craftsman style windows, lots of light, cathedral ceilings and more.
Heldi Kearsley 510-531-7000 x295

2027 26th AVENUE

2027 26th AVENUE \$425,000
Fruitvale. New Listing. Tastefully renovated, split level home. Living room w/fireplace, formal dining room with refinished hardwood floors. Kitchen has granite counter, dishwasher, disposal, appliances too. Updated bathroom; garage w/laundry and large rear yard. New paint inside & out.
Frank Hennefer 510-531-7000 x235

BY APPOINTMENT

CLASSIC VICTORIAN - COMMERCIAL 4-PLX \$1,000,000
Oakland. Downtown Oakland on edge of Jack London square. Approx. 3800 interior sq. ft. Zoned C-40 suitable for office, retail, civic type uses. Tastefully renovated. Deliverable 100% vacant.
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235



SUNNY SPLIT-LEVEL MEDITERRANEAN! \$579,000
Lincoln Heights. Original character and charm. Coved ceilings, graceful arches, crown moldings, hardwood floors. 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, formal dining room, breakfast room, rumpus room and a large terraced yard.
Mary Neuberger 531-7000 x251



CHARMING BUNGALOW \$339,000
Oakland. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath w/detached garage/shop, beautiful redwood & bay tree in large yard. Great quiet part of MacArthur; come take a look - looking for back-up offers.
Heldi Kearsley 531-7000 x295

LAND

OAKMORE DISTRICT LOT \$395,000
12,227 sq. ft. retreat off Hwy 13 in Montclair. Gorgeous redwoods surround this special lot. Gentle downslope with utilities at street. Super private.
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

CLAREMONT AREA \$299,000
Above Claremont Hotel. Partial Bay view. Upslope with utilities in street. Area of multi-million dollar homes. Financing available too!
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

NEW LISTING - MONTCLAIR DOWNSLOPE \$199,000
Balboa Drive within Shepherd Canyon area. Priced to sell. Financing available. Reports and home site plan included.
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

NEW LISTING - MONTCLAIR \$175,000
Westover Drive upslope. Design review approved plans for fabulous home. Financing pkg available. Canyon view.
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

MONTCLAIR UPSLOPE LOT W/ PLANS \$140,000
Plans previously approved for Mediterranean style home. Plans expired, but could be resubmitted to city for approval. Wouldn't take long to get permit.
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

FOR SALE WITH OWNER
Help-U-Sell
Alameda Homes
(510) 522-9888
John Chang Realtor
Each office independently owned and operated
2548 Santa Clara Ave #6 Alameda www.helpusell.com/ba

\$6,950
Low set fee to sell your home
• 317 Sand Beach Rd., Alameda 380/2BA Classy upgrades close to beach
• 100 Dr. Rd., Alameda 380/2BA 1489 Sq. Ft. 9 years new
• 2142 Santa Clara, Alameda 4+BR/3BA updated Victorian
• 1964 42nd Ave., Oakland City 2BD/1BA upgrades, views, big lot
• 1713 Mason St., Alameda Sold 10 days \$17,000 higher than asking
• 1827 Gaspar Dr., Oakland Sold for \$35,000 higher than asking

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OF
HOMES & APARTMENTS



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EL CERRITO



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8133 Terrace Dr. 3+BR 2.5 BA over 2300 sq. ft., with master suite, formal dining area. Huge, open & sunny gourmet kitchen with soaring ceilings, maple floors, great backyard, 2 wonderful patios (1 off master) 1 off dining area, 2-car attached garage w/interior access, earthquake retrofitted.
www.geristern.com Open Sun 1-4 510-666-6666

STUNNING CONTEMPORARY IN THE HILLS W/VIEWS

1315 Rifle Range 5 BR 3.5 BA. Almost 4000 sq. ft., Excellent condition! Huge living room and family rooms with fireplaces, in-law downstairs, 2 car attached garage, remodeled kitchen and new cherrywood floors, new roof, paint and clear Termite report. Master suite. Don't miss it!
www.carladellazoppa.com Open Sun 2-4 510-666-6666

RICHMOND ANNEX

VERSATILE HOME IN THE ANNEX \$399,000
3 BR, 1 BA almost 1000 sq. ft., additional plus room, remodeled kitchen, newer roof, updated plumbing, hardwood floors, etc.
Marilyn Rodriguez 510-222-8870

POINT RICHMOND

GREAT STARTER \$499,000
2BR 1BA in downtown Point Richmond. 1 car attached garage w/garage door opener, hardwood under carpets, updated kitchen, bath. Zoned c-1 neighborhood, live-work, commercial uses.
Steve Kendall 510-666-6666

RICHMOND NORTH AND EAST

FABULOUS LEVEL RANCHER GREAT LOCATION \$499,000
649 34th Street. (Open Sun 1:30-4) 3 BR 2 BA. Over 3000 sq. ft. family room w/fireplace insert, large eat-kitchen w/large separate laundry room, 1 car attached garage w/interior access, great w/atractive brick patio and charming lawn area w/flower boxes. Great detached workshop for building enthusiasts.
www.geristern.com Open Sun 1:30-4 510-666-6666

House hunting this weekend? Turn to Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section first.



Open
Sat. & Sun.

Mediterranean with View in Montclair ~ 16 Observation Place, Oakland

Wonderful entertainer's home with great indoor/outdoor living & spacious kitchen/family room combination. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths including a private master suite. Imaginative details throughout. Desirable cul-de-sac neighborhood.

Offered at \$1,295,000



Joan Duffield
Realtor
510-339-4774 Direct



JUST LISTED

Oakmore Highlands ~ 1929 Oakview Drive, Oakland

4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 story home. Awesome views on both levels! The home is spacious & has a great floor plan touched with sunshine from the large windows. Reconstructed property with newness everywhere, disclosure packets available. Sunday Open House 12:00 - 3:00 pm

Offered at \$875,000



Reva Tolbert
510-339-4761 direct line
rtolbert@coldwellbanker.com



NEW LISTING

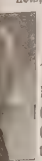


Open Sunday
12-3 pm

Berkeley Hills ~ 2877 Shasta Road

Unparalleled Quality! Custom 4 bedroom, 3 bath. Cherry wood kitchen cabinets, eat-in kitchen, living room with inlaid wood floor, formal dining room. Tranquil and sophisticated. Much more!

Offered at \$1,088,000



Terry Anthony
Realtor
(510) 339-4758 Direct
(510) 325-1513 Cell
terry1492@aol.com



JUST LISTED



Open
Sat. & Sun.

Mediterranean with View in Montclair ~ 16 Observation Place, Oakland

Wonderful entertainer's home with great indoor/outdoor living & spacious kitchen/family room combination. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths including a private master suite. Imaginative details throughout. Desirable cul-de-sac neighborhood.

Offered at \$1,295,000



Joan Duffield
Realtor
510-339-4774 Direct



COLDWELL BANKER

www.ColdwellBanker.com

Berkeley 510.486.1495 • Oakland 510.339.4700

BY APPOINTMENT

Oakmore Highlands \$1,550,000
3 full BA + 2 half. Stately, traditional. Private park-like setting, great neighborhood, fully renovated, light-filled, Old Charm.
D. Hymer 510.339.4700

Rockridge \$1,294,900
5 BA Fantastic house w/ 4 spaces. Mstr BR w/ den & 2-2 jr suites, Fam rm & more!
Alford 510.339.4700

Mount Ave. \$650,000
1 BA Light & charming, eat-in kit. Sun porch, FDR, garden, HWD, FRPL. Location!
Dickey 510.339.4700

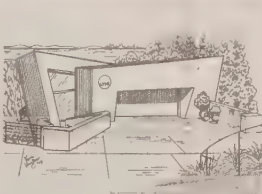
View \$549,000
2 BA Charming traditional w/ kitchen, 3rd bedroom with own deck & level yard. Garage + more. Great price!
Duffield 510.339.4700

**REAL ESTATE
WORM OF THE
YEAR!**

as rated by the East Bay Business Times



OPEN HOUSES



Oakland \$1,850,000
6343 Skyline Blvd. Sun 2-4
4BR, 3.5BA Open flr plan, quality materials & craftsmanship used throughout, 3 levels w/bay views!
Barbara Marienthal 510.486.1495



Piedmont \$1,695,000
65 Wyngaard Avenue Sun 2 - 4:30
4 BR 3.5 BA Traditional w/great architectural details, great in-outdoor living, sunny back yard
Bonnie Ross & Monica Zuck 510.339.4700

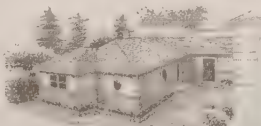


Piedmont \$1,295,000
539 Blair Avenue Sun 2 - 4:30
Sunny traditional 4+ BD, 3.5 BA, spacious living rm, formal dining, update kitchen, views
Dian Hymer & Carol Brown 510.339.4700

OPEN HOUSES



Montclair \$1,295,000
16 Observation Pl Sun 11:30 - 3
4 BR 3 BA Mediterranean w/ Bay views, 4bd, 3ba, lvl yard, decks, great kitchen. Cul-de-sac.
Joan Duffield 510.339.4700



Berkeley Hills \$1,088,000
2877 Shasta Road Sun 12 - 3
4 BR 3 BA Unparalleled Quality! Newly renovated, FDR, FP, EIK, HDWD floors, Tranquil & Sophisticated!
Terry Anthony 510.339.4700



Montclair \$998,000
24 Saroni Court Sun 1 - 5
3 BR 2.5 BA Nearly new & views! CulDeSac. Soaring ceilings lavish master suite, cooks kitchen Bonus rm
Donna Conroy 510.339.4700



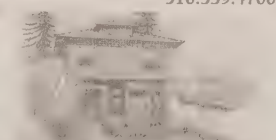
Piedmont \$975,000
333 Scenic Ave. Sun 2 - 5
Sun filled Contemp. w/ Bay views 2 bd 2 ba on upper lvl, add. rooms & 1 bath on lower lvl.
Haideh Chew 510.339.4700



OPEN HOUSES

Oakland \$875,000
1929 Oakview Dr Sun 12 - 3
4 BR 3 BA Spectacular Views on both levels! Spacious rooms.
Reva Tolbert & Pamela Finney 510.339.4700

Redwood Heights \$749,000
274 Stantonville Sun 2 - 4:30
3 BR 2.5 BA Charming mid-century home with views of the Bay & hills. Uncommon privacy and tranquility.
Gary & Noni Robinson 510.339.4700



Berkeley \$775,000
1427 Walnut Sat & Sun 2-5
3BR, 2BA Gourmet Ghetto Duplex. Approx. 1850 sq. ft. Top flr w/2BR/1BA, lwr w/1BR/1BA Deliv. vacant.
John Michael Powers 510.486.1495



Oakland Hills \$689,000
51 Kimberlin Heights Sun 2 - 5
3 BR 2.5 BA Expansive Bay views, great location! Rumpus room, two-car garage, large yard w/fruit trees
Liat Bostick 510.339.4700



Oakland \$650,000
4300 Saint Andrews Rd Sun 2 - 5
3 BR 2 BA Lovely 3-bedroom, 2-bath w/studio, updid kitchen, FDR, fam rm, LRw/fpic, waterfall & pond.
Adele M. Wong 510.339.4700

OPEN HOUSES



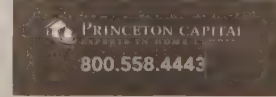
Oakland \$589,000
366 Oakland Sun 12 - 3
2 BR 1 BA Convenient to Piedmont Ave. & trans. HWF, DR w/ built-ins, FP, downstairs w/ sep. entrance
Julie Joyce 510.339.4700



Crocker Highlands \$575,000
1606 Trestle Glen Road Sun 2 - 4:30
2 BR 1.5 BA Charming English fixer w/ great potential. Vaulted living room ceiling, wonderful garden.
Karyn Miller & Barbara Hardacre 510.339.4700

Pinole \$519,000
1278 Hazel Sun 1 - 4
3 BR 2 BA VIEW VIEW VIEW! Unique bay front home w/large lot & garage.
Michelle Holm 510.486.1495

Adams Point \$249,000
350 Perkins #205 Sun 2 - 4:30
1 BR 1 BA Corner unit w/ spacious LVR & balcony overlooking courtyard. Close to Lake Merritt & shops
Darcy Diamantine 510.339.4700



1495 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley

6137 La Salle Avenue, Oakland

House hunting
this weekend?
Don't miss the
Open Home
Guide on B17.

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Harbor Bay Realty

"TRUST A PROFESSIONAL WHO CARES"

OAKLAND
534 HENRY ST.
Single level 2+ bdrm/office area Home - built 1981 Interior designed by architect Skylights & windows create an abundance of natural light Hot tub in bldg
PENDING \$499,000

SAN LEANDRO
14422 SEAGATE DRIVE
Two bdrm/1.5 bath two-story - townhouse-style Beautiful bright and unit in great location
PENDING \$375,000

14182 OUTRIGGER DRIVE
2 bdrm/2 bath upper unit at Marina Seagate Vaulted ceilings Beautiful condition
SOLD \$390,000

15639 ANCHORAGE AVE.
Bright, beautiful 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath home at Heron Bay
SOLD \$585,000

CASTRO VALLEY
4419 EWING RD.
GORGEOUS single level home in Parsons Estates
SOLD \$888,000

ALAMEDA
2610 BAYVIEW DRIVE
Enchanting view of the bay from this rare single level home! 3 bdrms, 2 baths with hardwood floors, March tankless water heater
SOLD \$618,000

2017 EAGLE AVE.
Outstanding elegant duplex, built in 1989 Great opportunity for owner/investor
SOLD \$799,000

The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS

NEW LISTING

17 Ringwood Road, Oakland Hills

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This contemporary home features dramatic San Francisco, Golden Gate and Bay views, master suite, library, family room, hardwood floors. Three bedrooms, two and one half baths and a two-car garage with interior access.
Offered at \$789,000

SHERRY BENNINGER
Office: 510.339.0400/240
sherrybenninger@grubbc.com
SherryBenninger.com
GRUBBCO.COM

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Photo Tours
of this and other current listings.

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6455 Snake Road - Montclair - \$1,175,000

Coming Soon

Prudential California Realty
3+ bedrooms 3.5 bath
1 bed in-law unit
2 car garage
2 fireplaces
Gourmet kitchen
Designer colors
Hardwood floors
Built in 1980 by Jeff Armstrong
Open House
Sunday 2/13 & 2/20

This home is an exquisite Montclair contemporary with extraordinary views of San Francisco to the North Bay. 3+ beds/3.5 bath and a detached 1 bed in-law unit. Natural light from the many windows and skylights fill the open livingroom, dining room and chef's quality kitchen.
photo tour at: www.santilena.com

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Fine Oakland & Piedmont Properties (510) 869-4231

COMING SOON

1927 Chateau
Berkeley
Bay View

Gorgeous minutes to Gheto plus Eating French Do Yard 4 Bdrms and R...
W...

Offered at \$625,000

Prudential California Realty
Jennifer Schreyer
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Open Sunday February 6 2:00 to 4:30

MONTCLAIR \$1,290,000
7315 Snake Road
Almost new home. Panoramic view of San Francisco Bridges. Four luxurious master suites with panoramic view, gourmet kitchen, top quality appliances, family room, high ceilings, new carpet, home office & au-pair unit with separate entrance.
Martha Shin 510-339-4565

Open House

SAN LEANDRO \$599,000
495 Lewis Avenue
New listing. Stunning restoration of this 3/2 North Area 1928 classic. Fully updated kitchen & baths, plus media and bonus rooms, refinished hardwood floors and much more, on a large landscaped lot.
www.EarleShenken.com 510-220-6407

LAUREL \$499,000
5040 Daisy Street
Mid century starter. Sweet 60's two bedroom, 1 bath. Cathedral ceilings, hardwood floors, big yard, 2 car garage. Great condition.
OPEN 1-5
Jennie Lippincott 510-384-3557

By Appointment

BERKELEY HILLS 1,998,000
Unparalleled custom view, 3 master suites, gourmet kitchen, cherrywood flrs, vaulted ceilings.
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

OAKLAND \$529,000
Two story mixed use building with 3,000 sq ft Zoned C-30. Three restrooms, two kitchens, high ceilings, open floor plan, five entrances with street access.
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

CLEAR LAKE \$8,000/\$10,000
This lot has access to electricity and water and has an in-tact septic tank. Previously a mobile home resided on this lot! Seller Motivated!
3314, 3322 Park Street.
Rochelle Anthony 510-339-4000

By Appointment

LAUREL \$279,000
Cute cozy condo! Two bedrooms, one bath, top floor end unit, small balcony. Great building with reasonable HOA. Perfect for first time home buyer.
Lila Owens 510-339-4000

Coming Soon

CRESTMONT
Panoramic views about this 3 BD/ 2.5 BA Contemporary. HW floors, inlay detailing, vaulted ceilings, skylights grace the LR. FR & entry. Bright kitchen w/ amenities. Enjoy formal dining upper deck access, show home in the clouds!
Nahid Nassiri 510-339-4000

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING A MOVE, PLEASE CALL US!

Hamilton

FROM PAGE B6

different property, for less, and decided to purchase that property. The hand money that secured my contract was \$3,000. According to contract I could recover the hand money and I was limited to liquidated damages to the extent of the hand money.

So often, a layperson as myself is confronted with law issues and contracts that cannot be enforced in a court of law.

Here is the problem: I was advised that the only way to collect the hand money was to file a claim in small claims court and have the hearing before a district magistrate to recover for default.

Since an offer and acceptance equals a contract, I filed a claim in magistrate court to recover the limit of the liquidated damages, which was the hand money. The district magistrate passed a judgment to the defendant with no reason given. A: Obviously, the protection of

a contract means that the buyer is free to impart damages on a seller with no fear of being bound by the clauses in an agreement. I share this with you because so often, a layperson as myself is confronted with law issues and contracts that cannot be enforced in a court of law. Your story is very confounding. However, the magistrate must follow (yet can interpret) the written laws and the established case law surrounding this matter. Case law in Pennsylvania might allow for a buyer to back out of a closing for a variety of reasons that are more inclusive than what is in your specific, written contract. If you are really upset about this, you may want to discuss this with an attorney.

NEW LISTING



Duplex
2661 23rd Ave. Oakland
Offered at \$439,000

Open Sunday,
February 6, 2-4:30

Duplex.
Owners unit is vacant.
1 bed, 1 bath each unit.
Living room, kitchen.
2 Garages.
Private patio and deck.
Close to transportation and shopping.

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342 Highland Ave., Piedmont



House hunting? Don't miss the Open Home Guide on B17.

JUST LISTED

336 45TH STREET, OAKLAND

Open
Sunday 2-5

Craftsman Duplex in Popular Temescal



Great opportunity! Spacious 2+ bedroom "flats," just painted, and oak floors refinished. A DOUBLE landscaped lot. Two garages. Near Rockridge and Piedmont Ave. shopping and dining. Easy S.F. commute. All vacant.

Offered at \$549,000

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A SUPER WINNER!!



3290 Guido Street
Offered at \$599,000

Open 12 noon - 5 pm
Saturday & Super Bowl Sunday

This Redwood Heights 2 bedroom home has been kept in winning condition, boasting a new roof, new dual pane windows, new redwood deck/fencing and refinished hardwood floors - all in 2004. Spacious rooms include living room with fireplace, formal dining room and eat-in kitchen with newly tiled floor. Peaceful and private landscaped yard has a comprehensive automatic sprinkler system. And it is located so close to a small city park.

John Forrest Bell

510/834-2010 Office

510/287-9856 VM

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FEATURED HOMES



Stunning Estate \$3,950,000
New price! 11,000 sq. ft., 5-bridge views, 6+ BR/6+BA, home theatre & gym!
Judith Glass/Sheila Sabine (510) 428-0900



Gorgeous Kitchen \$675,000
Charming 2BR Craftsman w/incredible kitchen, garden!
Barbara Reynolds (510) 868-1487



Sunday 2-4:30 \$549,000
336 45th Street, Oakland. Temescal Craftsman duplex. Each unit with 2+BR/1BA.
Lisa Friedman (510) 339-9290



Sunday 2-4:30 \$549,000
5312 Manila, Oakland. Beautiful Rockridge 1BR/1BA with converted garage.
Finola Fellner (510) 339-9290



Sunday 1-4 \$489,000
2933 & 2935 Florida, Oakland. Just listed! Duplex - 2BR home, 1 studio apt.
Adrianne Nash (510) 845-0211

OAKLAND

Sunday 2-4:30 \$949,000
6650 Girvin Drive. Bright 3BR/2.5BA contemporary home in the Pines.
Rina Marchesotti (510) 339-9290

Sunday 2-4:30 \$789,000
6451 Melville. Sunny, spacious 4BR/3BA in serene Piedmont Pines.
Gene Boomer (510) 339-9290

Sunday 2-4:30 \$665,000
8179 Praelton Drive. Original 4BR/2BA Eichler in good condition.
Muriel Wong (510) 339-9290

Sunday 12-5 \$599,000
3290 Guido St. Super indeed; 2BR in winning condition.
(510) 834-2010

Sunday 12-3 \$499,000
728 98th St. 1900s 2BR home, huge lot, fruit trees & garden.
(510) 834-2010

Sunday 2-4 \$388,000
2914 14th Ave. Completely remodeled 3BR/1.5BA. Good value!
Mayling Trinn (510) 834-2010

Spacious \$380,000
3BR/1BA large home. Backyard garden, garage plus BART, easy freeway.
Cynthia Johnson (510) 868-1549

2BR/1BA, Nice Location \$379,000
Nice location, close to transportation. Move-in condition. Must see!
Ming Zhou (510) 834-2010

Sunday 10-2 \$249,000
3825 High St. #204. Charming 1BR/1BA, Mediterranean-style condo.
Eric Johnson (510) 339-9290

OAKLAND

Sunday 12-2 \$225,000
682 Sycamore St. Contractor's special, as-is.
(510) 834-2010

BERKELEY

Sunday 2-4 \$487,000
2542 McGee. Sunny 2BR w/great yard, maximum convenience: BART, shops.
Diane Ohlsson (510) 868-1515

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Gorgeous House \$638,000
3744 Painted Pony Rd., Richmond. 4BR/2.5BA, spacious. Buyer must see!
Michael Wong (510) 527-9800

Sunday 1-4 \$565,000
1245 Everett, El Cerrito. 4+BR/2BA, fresh paint, fireplace, hardwood floors.
Ron Cacajjal (510) 868-1400

Sunday 2-4 \$425,000
3966 El Monte Road, El Sobrante. Charming 3BR/1BA on large corner lot.
Alfky Vasdekis (510) 845-0211

Sunday 1-4 \$349,900
1908 Bush Ave., San Pablo. 2BR/1BA located on a 4,800 sq. ft. lot.
Theresa Delgado (510) 232-7263

Sunday 12-3 \$349,000
2404 Hatch, San Pablo. Big lot, hardwood floors, 2 car garage.
Carol Heath-Klim (510) 525-2346

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VALLEJO

Sunday 1-4 \$425,000
2710 Tennessee. Lots of space. Great location. 3BR/2BA, large backyard. Ad #1306.
Calle Major (510) 758-5637

RESIDENTIAL INCOME

Well-Maintained 10-Plex \$1,295,000
Consisting of 8-plex & 2 houses. Close to N. Berkeley BART and minutes to Berkeley campus, Shattuck, Solano & 4th Streets shopping districts.
Eric N. Silverman (510) 428-0900

RESIDENTIAL INCOME

Sunday 12-3:30 \$2,395,000
5895 Grizzly Peak. Spectacular 4BR/3.5BA. Cutting edge, new one of a kind construction.
Heidi Marchesotti (510) 339-9290

RESIDENTIAL INCOME

Beautiful Triplex! \$750,000
Two 2BR/1BA, one 1BR/1BA. 2,326 sq. ft. Built in 2002. Fenced yards.
Daniel Reeching (510) 337-8670

Duplex in Berkeley \$675,000
Attractive 4BR/2BA. Great location close to campus and Telegraph.
Wendy Louie (510) 868-1400

Sunday 2-4:30 \$439,000
2661 23rd Ave. Duplex 1BR/1BA each, garage, living room, very clean.
Scott Thompson (510) 428-0900

Sunday 2-4 \$399,000
842-844 Pine, Oakland fixer opportunity. 2 units.
Eunice Smith (510) 845-0211

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WEEKLY SALES

ALAMEDA

1626 9th St A - \$510,000
 1813 9th St - \$550,000
 231 Beach Rd - \$425,000
 50 Benedict Ct - \$647,500
 1361 Broadway - \$625,000
 2826 Calhoun St - \$256,500
 451 Central Av - \$555,000
 14 Courageous G68 - \$650,000
 1334 Fernside Bl - \$535,000
 413 Haight Av - \$570,000
 360 Jack London - \$774,500
 368 Jack London - \$944,500
 2 Mastick Ct - \$485,000
 640 Pacific Av - \$625,000
 2841 Santa Clara - \$810,000
 1813 St. Charles - \$545,000
 217 Stanbridge - \$758,000
 26 Ulster Pl - \$702,000

ALBANY

1504 Beverly Pl - \$500,000
 1027 Evelyn Av - \$435,000
 845 Evelyn Av - \$800,000
 1102 Neilson St - \$740,000
 535 Pierce 5311 - \$442,500
 905 Pierce St - \$502,500

BERKELEY

2418 7th St - \$480,000
 2405 Acton St - \$610,000
 2613 Ashby Av - \$675,000
 2230 California - \$650,000
 1730 Highland - \$385,000
 1732 Highland - \$432,500
 2411 Russell St 1 - \$505,000
 1342 Russell St - \$415,000
 39 San Mateo - \$1,200,000
 1410 Scenic Av - \$1,018,000
 1431 Summit Rd - \$645,000
 1600 Walnut St - \$800,000
 2614 Warring St - \$306,000

EL CERRITO

801 Arlington Bl - \$721,000
 124 Behrens St - \$760,000
 2611 Brooks Av - \$575,000
 7755 Earl Ct - \$155,000
 6436 Hagen Bl - \$580,000
 1300 Lawrence - \$546,000
 924 Liberty St - \$540,000
 6525 Moeser Ln - \$438,000
 2209 Mono Av - \$540,000
 1415 Navellier St - \$600,000
 936 Richmond St - \$643,000

EL SOBRANTE

48 Christopher Ct - \$740,000
 5628 Circle Dr - \$555,000
 3958 La Colina Rd - \$440,000
 3925 La Crescenta - \$482,000
 19 Setting Sun Pl - \$725,000

EMERYVILLE

1212 32nd St - \$407,000
 5 Admiral Dr A385 - \$200,000
 3 Admiral Dr F470 - \$279,000
 7 Captain Dr C215 - \$230,000
 7 Captain Dr C303 - \$257,500
 3 Captain Dr D205 - \$310,000
 6363 Christie 2721 - \$350,000
 1500 Park Av 111 - \$460,000

OAKLAND

1300 103rd Av - \$410,000
 1638 103rd Av - \$320,000
 655 12th St 302 - \$471,000
 1470 13th St - \$325,000
 1075 33rd Av - \$210,000
 1618 34th Av - \$270,000
 874 34th St - \$425,000
 666 37th St - \$332,500
 2115 41st Av - \$480,000
 945 45th Av - \$380,000
 666 56th St - \$638,000
 668 57th St - \$374,500
 1304 62nd Av - \$510,000
 1806 66th Av - \$360,000
 1500 66th Av - \$355,000
 1620 68th Av - \$332,000
 1035 70th Av - \$350,000
 901 70th Av - \$255,000
 1148 73rd Av - \$272,000
 2692 76th Av - \$370,000
 1706 82nd Av - \$530,000
 1045 83rd Av - \$175,000
 1629 84th Av - \$260,000
 1100 88th Av - \$290,000
 1336 89th Av - \$290,000
 1158 92nd Av - \$370,000
 1218 93rd Av - \$230,000
 6952 Balsam Wy - \$695,000
 2600 Best Av - \$503,000
 9634 Birch St - \$300,000
 10627 Breed Av - \$350,000
 5340 B'way Tr 302 - \$473,000
 320 Caldecott 209 - \$435,000
 13341 Campus - \$1,877,000
 595 Capistrano Dr - \$360,000
 2923 Chestnut St - \$421,000
 2491 Cole St - \$430,000
 6670 Colton Bl - \$650,000
 4534 Congress Av - \$430,000
 460 Crescent St - \$325,000
 9900 D St - \$350,000
 4542 Davenport Av - \$595,000
 465 Douglas Av - \$340,000
 1633 East 20th St - \$389,000
 1636 East 21st St - \$447,000
 1720 East 21st St - \$432,000
 3056 East 22nd St - \$478,000
 2525 East 28th St - \$405,000
 2851 East 9th St - \$388,000
 625 El Dorado 207 - \$401,000
 11266 Elvessa St - \$520,000
 3914 Everett Av - \$480,000
 4520 Fairbairn Av - \$589,000
 6633 Forestland Wy - \$895,000
 989 Franklin 312 - \$320,000
 989 Franklin 420 - \$299,000
 989 Franklin 623 - \$325,000
 3064 Guido St - \$725,000
 6911 Halliday Av - \$425,000
 3312 Harrison St - \$425,000
 2926 Havenscourt - \$255,000
 79 Hazelwood Ct - \$380,000
 2502 Hearst Av - \$490,000
 2977 Hedge Ct - \$680,000

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3 BR, 1 Bath cosmetic fixer in Vallejo. Appt only!

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4504B Montgomery Street, Oakland

Open Sunday, 1:00 - 4:00
 New Listing! Spacious, sunny 3 bdrm, 2 bath condo nr Rockridge/Piedmont shops, restaurants & BART. On cul-de-sac, private w/gorgeous views. Hwd floors, dual-pane windows, fireplace. Kitchen w/granite countertops & breakfast bar. Each bdrm w/ balcony. Mstr suite w/walk-in closet & stunning slate bath w/Jacuzzi tub. Garage, shared backyard.

Denise Milburn
 524-9888 x35

\$525,000

6604 Aqua Vista Court
 Richmond View/El Cerrito Border

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:30
 New Listing! Sunny hill home with Bay and hill views. Living room with alcove, wonderful kitchen opening to patio and backyard. 3 bdrms, 2 baths. Huge master bdrm has updated bath with skylight.

Maya Trilling
 524-9888 x18

\$465,000

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ORINDA

\$3,888,000

LAFAYETTE

\$1,475,000

LAFAYETTE

\$1,200,000



The Castle on the Mountain

MONTECASTELLI. New construction with European design and quality. Elegant, opulent, and exciting: a magnificent Tuscan villa. Grotto style pool, pavilion, and two waterfalls. Wooded lot with view.



Coming Soon - Tuscan Villa

Remodeled and expanded in 2004, this elegant Mediterranean style home offers 4bd/3ba, MBD with FP, walk-in closet and luxurious MBA, formal LR with FP, formal DR, FR, kitchen with top of the line appliances.



Price Just Reduced

Exceptional location conveniently located on Hwy 24, BART, Lafayette Reservoir and downtown. Immaculate 3-year-old Mediterranean nestles perfectly into its hillside setting. Wonderful for large gatherings.

LAFAYETTE

\$1,249,000

ORINDA

\$899,000

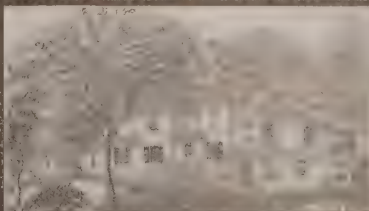
LAFAYETTE

\$699,000



Private and Quiet

Perched on a quiet hill, surrounded by spacious decks and ancient oak trees: a truly magical place. Complete with 5bd/3ba, pool, privacy, incredible views and a chance to discover your serenity.



Premier Orinda Country Club Lot

Rare Orinda Country Club lot with approved plans to build a Spanish-Contemporary 5bd/3ba home with spacious FR, eat-in kitchen with island. Possible guest home with garage not yet approved.



Great Opportunity To Own

Hardwood floors, 3-way fireplace. Buyers review all reports prior to making offer. Some drainage and foundation issues. To be sold "As Is".

LAFAYETTE

\$601,950

ANTIOCH

\$599,900

CONCORD

\$290,000



Just Listed

Ultimate in convenience. This beautifully upgraded Colony Park home is located on the Walnut Creek border complete with three bedrooms, two baths, sparkling swimming pool and RV parking.



Rare Spacious Single Story

Delta views and upgrades galore. Better than new. Upgraded kitchen, media niche in FR with FP. Large master suite. Professionally landscaped front and back yards. Formal dining room, 3-car garage. 4bd/2ba.



Just Listed

This two bedroom, one and a half bath townhome features vaulted ceilings, dual paneled windows and patio door, new carpet and linoleum. Located near shopping at BART.

ORINDA 2 Theatre Square 925.258.1111 | MONTCLAIR 6116 LaSalle Avenue 510.899.8000

Sales

FROM PAGE B10

1865 Hoover Av - \$450,000	90 Rio Vista Av - \$765,000
64 Ironwood - \$540,000	2778 Ritchie St - \$375,000
3340 Kianale St - \$507,500	10816 Rugby Ct - \$635,000
1 Lakeside 1209 - \$460,500	10885 Snowdown - \$669,000
1 Lakeside 1603 - \$647,000	4369 Terrabella - \$675,000
1 Lakeside 1604 - \$697,000	371 Stonelord - \$320,000
1 Lakeside 317 - \$366,000	4109 Terrace St - \$625,000
1 Lakeside 407 - \$485,500	4113 Terrace St - \$760,000
1 Lakeside 502 - \$628,000	2500 Union St - \$800,000
1 Lakeside 507 - \$452,500	330 Vernon St 302 - \$392,500
1 Lakeside 617 - \$397,000	2244 Vicksburg Av - \$510,000
1 Lakeside 812 - \$371,000	3400 Victor Av - \$633,000
1855 Lakeside - \$520,000	10129 Walnut St - \$325,000
7319 Lockwood - \$325,000	9309 Walnut St - \$470,000
3454 Loma Vista - \$320,000	597 West Grand Av - \$153,000
4077 Lyon Av - \$380,000	1409 West St - \$510,000
1858 Magellan Dr - \$685,000	5925 Westover - \$1,000,000
1908 Magnolia St - \$525,000	
6810 MLK Jr Wy - \$575,000	
7916 Michigan Av - \$399,000	
311 Oak St 2 - \$649,000	
311 Oak St 317 - \$650,000	
311 Oak St 742 - \$378,000	
405 Oakland Av - \$468,000	
2805 Park Bl - \$125,000	
3030 Parker Av - \$488,000	
2634 Pleasant St - \$406,500	

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400 East Bay homes 4 sale online

No Obligation of course

New Listing

6 Sea View Pkwy.

Priced at \$698,000

Open House

Sat 2/5 & Sun 2/6

2:00-4:00 pm

Fabulous Find of Quiet Elegance

When You Only Have Time to View the Best

Contemporary 2bd + den/2 bath townhouse
Renovated kitchen and baths
Granite counters, beautiful flooring
Custom cabinets and storage make life easy
2-car garage
Max. Enjoy the sweeping view of the SF skyline and SF Bay

Challenges Comparison! Call today.

Rosemary McNally, Broker Associate

CRS, GRI, SRES

510 769-1845

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New Listings



TWO UNITS
#25 - 2 bdrm, 1 ba home in front w/central heating, basement area, attached garage w/door opener - 1 bedroom/1 bath cottage in rear w/large kitchen, dual pane windows.

\$545,000



DESIRABLE
#32 - Richmond Annex neighborhood - 3 bedroom, 2 baths in move in condition - new carpets and new interior & exterior paint - large 2 car garage w/winter/for access - convenient access to freeway.

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#31 - Distinctive home on cul de sac - 5 bdrm 3 bath over 2400 sq. ft. w/versatile size room. On 1st flr 180/18A can use as office. Grmt kitchen w/Island counter. Luxurious master suite has lg. closet & dual vanities. Close to Hwy & shopping.

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1918 Burbeck Av - \$387,000	3311 Garvin Av - \$357,000
3932 Center Av - \$359,000	5227 Garvin Av - \$335,000
333 Chanslor Av - \$265,000	15 Harbor View Dr - \$719,000
15 Crest Av - \$1,000,000	336 Hawk Ridge Dr - \$829,000
574 Duboce Av - \$310,000	338 Hawk Ridge Dr - \$785,000
1092 Farmstead - \$560,000	342 Hawk Ridge Dr - \$824,000

1083 Heritage Ct - \$545,000	1912 Rheem Av - \$390,000
825 Humboldt Av - \$625,000	2338 Rheem Av - \$438,000
2530 Lowell Av - \$455,000	3520 Ridgewood - \$635,000
1564 Mariposa St - \$420,000	1471 San Joaquin - \$460,000
473 Mt. St - \$450,000	
1519 Nevlin Plz - \$244,000	
3944 Potrero Av - \$425,000	

See SALES, Page B12

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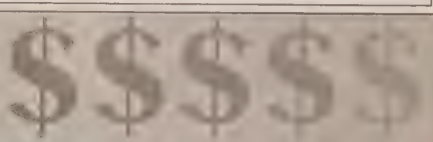
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Downey Savings & Loan DOC #937471 Fees=\$1428	30-yr Fixed 5.250 . . . 1.625 5.424 . . . 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 . . . 1.250 5.794 . . . 45	1-mo COFI ARM* 1.000 . . . 1.000 4.996 . . . 45		Direct lender 45 yrs experience; fixed & adjust rate mtgs. *Pot. neg. amort Apply online at www.downeysavings.com
First Blackhawk Financial 800-796-MARY DRE# 01144055 Fees=\$1986	30-yr Fixed 5.375 . . . 0.000 5.465 . . . 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 . . . 0.000 5.668 . . . 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.000 . . . 0.000 5.038 . . . 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625 . . . 0.000 4.665 . . . 30	JUMBO AND SUPER JUMBO SPECIALIST more rates at mayrightell.com Call 7days wk mghtell@1stblackhawk.com
Golden Gate Home Loans 877-246-5899 DOC# 6052720 Fees=\$1945	30-yr Fixed call*	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call*	5/1 ARM call	1-yr ARM call	100%financing. No Income Verification!! Pmts 1yr-ARM I/O @ \$500K \$1562.5750K \$2344 *700 FICO. *Jumbos. 700 FICO+3 yr prepay
Imperial Mortgage 800-961-2274 DRE# 01033832 Fees=\$1453	30-yr Fixed 5.250 . . . 1.000 5.450 . . . 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 . . . 1.000 5.675 . . . 30	5/1 Interest Only 4.625 . . . 1.000 4.824 . . . 30	No S Dwn 30-yr Fxd 4.990 . . . 1.000 6.190 . . . 30	DON'T BE "LURED IN" BY LOW QUOTES! CALL ME FOR AN HONEST LOCKABLE RATE! FIND OUT WHY I GET TONS REFERRALS! BAD CREDIT OK
Mortgage Market 800-337-5626 DRE# 00887562 Fees=\$1875	30-yr Fixed 5.600 . . . 0.000 5.590 . . . 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 . . . 0.000 5.846 . . . 30	15-yr Fixed 5.250 . . . 0.000 5.402 . . . 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.125 . . . 0.000 5.259 . . . 30	Great Purchase, Refinance Construction/Home Equity, 100% LTV Loans Great service, Over 25 years in Business
Northern Mutual Corp. 888-441-2600 DRE# 01243581 Fees=\$2348	30-yr Fixed call*	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call*	6 month ARM call*		WOW!! NO ADD-ON FOR JUMBO LOANS! No-Point loans are avail! *3yr pp 80%LTV E-mail Steve@northernmutual.com
Pacific West Financial 800-798-7334 DRE# 01124581 Fees=\$1694	30-yr Fixed 5.600 . . . 0.000 5.588 . . . 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 . . . 0.000 5.789 . . . 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.000 . . . 0.000 5.037 . . . 30	3-1 ARM 4.500 . . . 0.000 4.583 . . . 30	No mortgage pmts with Reverse Mortgage 103% purchase/Credit problems OK Interest Only Loans/BK OK
Saratoga Bancorp 800-935-6266 DRE# 01203205 Fees=\$1893	30-yr Fixed 5.375 . . . 0.000 5.425 . . . 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 . . . 0.000 5.654 . . . 45	15-yr Fixed 5.000 . . . 0.000 5.098 . . . 45	5/1 ARM 4.750 . . . 0.000 5.194 . . . 45	Good Credit Has its Reward! No Income Check Loans! 1st or 2nd Mortgage Purh/Ref to 100%. saratogabancorp.com
Washington Mutual Bank 825-256-7171 Fees=\$1149	30-yr Fixed call	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call	5/1 ARM call	7/1 ARM call	Purchases Close in just 7 days/no points Complimentary pre-approval - no cost Avail 7 days a week, including evenings
Wells Fargo Home Mtg. 925-287-6903 Fees=\$1180	30-yr Fxd call*	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call*	10/1 ARM Int Only call*	5/1 ARM Int Only call*	Purchase: Closings in just 7 days/no pts Jumbo Interest Only / Construction Loans Local. Call Our Team Today!(925)287-6903
Wells Fargo Home Mtg. 866-809-1502 Fees=\$1431	30-yr Fixed call	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.776 . . . 30 5.776 . . . 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo* 5.000 . . . 0.000 5.024 . . . 30	10/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750 . . . 0.000 5.625 . . . 30	100% to 1 Mil. Free Pre Approval Credit Lines to 3 Mil * Purchase loan
AAA Mortgage 888-821-6200 DRE# 01061146 Fees=\$1595	30-yr Fixed 5.375 . . . 0.000 5.465 . . . 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 . . . 0.000 5.710 . . . 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750 . . . 0.000 4.810 . . . 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500 . . . 0.000 4.570 . . . 30	OPEN WEEKENDS-LOCK YOUR RATE TODAY! ASK ABOUT THE 4 PAYMENT OPTION LOAN APPLY/PRE-APPROVED OVER THE PHONE
Absolute Mortgage Fund. 888-90-HOMES DOC# 603A775 Fees=\$1359	30-yr Fixed 5.250 . . . 0.125 5.280 . . . 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 . . . 0.000 5.510 . . . 30	15-yr Fixed 4.750 . . . 0.125 4.780 . . . 30	5/1 ARM 4.500 . . . 0.000 4.520 . . . 30	LOWEST RATES AND FEES IN THE INDUSTRY! FREE FLOAT-DOWNS! FEES ARE ONLY \$399! CALL NOW! 888-90-HOMES
AlmLoan.com 888-411-4248 DRE# 01261254 Fees=\$2400	30-yr Fixed 5.375 . . . 0.000 5.448 . . . 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 . . . 0.375 5.554 . . . 30	15-yr Fixed 4.930 . . . 0.375 4.930 . . . 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750 . . . 0.000 5.265 . . . 30	Direct Lender * Guaranteed Rates & Fees Apply & Lock 24/7 * Zero Down Interest Only * Open Sat/Sun 9-2 PT
AmeriSave Mortgage Corp. 800-603-8592 Fees=\$1223	30-yr Fxd 5.500 . . . 0.000 5.512 . . . 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 . . . 0.000 5.636 . . . 30	3-1 ARM 4.000 . . . 0.000 4.250 . . . 30	5/1 ARM 4.375 . . . 0.000 5.200 . . . 30	No closing costs loans available www.amerisave.com Best rates and lowest fees guaranteed or we pay you \$300!
Bay Area Funding 925-930-3100 DRE# 769452 Fees=\$2316	30-yr Fixed 5.375 . . . 1.000 5.554 . . . 35	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 . . . 1.000 5.761 . . . 35	1st Time Buyer 30 4.250 . . . 1.000 4.445 . . . 35	1st Time Buyer 5/1 3.500 . . . 1.000 3.687 . . . 35	1ST TIME BUYER 30 yr. fix @ 4.50%..... *1st TIME BUYER 30 YR. FIX after Fed Subsidy. Income & price limits. 100%OK
BayCal Financial Corp. 877-288-8368 DRE# 01116696 Fees=\$1704	30-yr Fixed 5.125 . . . 0.000 5.325 . . . 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 . . . 1.000 5.513 . . . 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750 . . . 0.000 4.797 . . . 30	3-1 ARM Jumbo 4.375 . . . 0.000 4.421 . . . 30	100% Home Financing Programs up to 1 Mil. Interest Only to 2 Mil. 6 MOS, 3/1, 5/1 180 Days Lock. NEW Construction Home PUR
Cal First Lending 877-414-8280 DRE# 01316854 Fees=\$1623	30-yr Fixed 5.000 . . . 2.000 5.242 . . . 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 . . . 0.000 5.653 . . . 30	15-yr Fixed 4.250 . . . 2.000 4.730 . . . 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500 . . . 1.750 4.709 . . . 30	FAST APRVL. FEB SPECIAL-NO APPRAISAL FEE BAD CREDIT & BANKRUPTCY OK Open Evenng and wknds Call 877-414-8280
CMG Mortgage Services 800-958-5339 DRE# 01370755 Fees=\$1433	30-yr Fixed 5.125 . . . 1.000 5.288 . . . 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 . . . 1.250 5.515 . . . 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250 . . . 1.375 4.392 . . . 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500 . . . 1.600 4.661 . . . 30	OPEN SAT/SUN STATED OR NO INCOME LOANS AVAILABLE CREDIT PROBLEMS OK NO POINTS LOANS AVAILABLE.
Countrywide Home Loans 888-903-9888	30-yr Fixed call	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call	Pay Option ARM call	5/1 ARM Jumbo call	FREE pre-approval. Refinance/2nd homes. 100% financing/ no doc/ stated income 10 day purchase closings. 209-614-3448
Custom Mtge Solutions 800-259-9510 DOC# 603-11644 Fees=\$1170	30-yr Fixed 4.875 . . . 2.000 5.020 . . . 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 . . . 1.500 5.470 . . . 30	MTA - NEG AM * 4.250 . . . 1.000 3.910 . . . 45	15-yr Fixed 4.375 . . . 2.000 4.690 . . . 30	A-B-C-D Credit. 100% & 80/20 purch. 90% LTV in Bankruptcy; *pot neg am. No doc to 1M. Loans to 4M. Foreclosure Buyouts.

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- Check out our useful mortgage calculators
- Email questions/scenarios to lenders
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Rates based on \$175,000 loan for single family residence. Jumbo rates (loans in excess of \$359,650) based on \$400,000 loan. All rates are believed to be accurate but cannot be guaranteed and are subject to change without notice. Minimum downpayment requirements and other restrictions may apply. Closing costs may vary. Contact each company for details. Points include origination and discount fees. APR = annual percentage rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance if required. Lockrate lock period. ARM=adjustable rate mortgage. Companies pay a fee to be in this Guide. *Avege 30 yr. fixed conforming with 0 points Fees are estimated costs based on a \$175,000 purchase money loan and may vary from loan to loan. These are not inclusive of all costs and do not include points, prepaid interest, title insurance or escrow items. Click on "Fees" in "Current Mortgage Rates" section of website - contact each company for details. Copyright 2003, INFOTRAK National Data Services and Knight Publishing Co.

If you would like to be included in this Mortgage Guide, please call 781-276-1711

Sales

FROM PAGE B11

213 Seaciff Wy - \$988,500
 301 Seaciff Wy - \$861,000
 2566 Sheldon Dr - \$500,000
 127 S. 33rd St - \$473,000
 3699 S. Stoneglen - \$350,000
 2567 Treese Dr - \$370,000
 479 W. Richmond - \$520,000
 5839 Yale Av - \$615,000

SAN LEANDRO

1439 151st Av - \$391,000
 342 Accolade Dr - \$580,000
 979 Billings Bl - \$490,000
 591 Callan Av - \$315,000
 593 Callan Av - \$315,000
 15127 Crosby St - \$530,000
 81 Dabner St - \$499,000
 517 Davis St - \$650,000
 408 Dutton Av - \$575,000
 14835 E. 14th St 1 - \$350,000
 1638 Fairmont Dr - \$404,000
 1640 Fairmont Dr - \$404,000
 1300 Graff Av - \$585,000
 1596 Hubbard Av - \$571,000
 764 Juana Av - \$449,000
 1972 Manchester - \$530,000
 1556 Manzanita - \$500,000
 1690 Manzanita - \$475,000
 16085 Maubert Av - \$548,500
 1233 Montrose Dr - \$665,000
 1415 Oakes Bl - \$615,000
 944 Oakes Bl - \$620,000
 1612 Pacific Av - \$450,000
 1353 Pierce Av - \$478,500
 14968 Portofino - \$618,000
 871 Serra Dr - \$490,000
 1011 Trojan Av - \$500,000
 416 W. Broadmoor - \$442,000
 14751 Western Av - \$435,000
 3840 Yorkshire St - \$360,000

SAN LORENZO

15381 Dermody Av - \$520,000
 15506 Dermody Av - \$465,000
 530 Heritage Cr - \$619,500
 854 Mooney Av - \$464,000
 1173 Via Dolorosa - \$535,000
 17375 Via La Jolla - \$540,000
 15731 Via Lunado - \$502,000
 16081 Via Olinda - \$525,000
 15707 Via Represa - \$440,000
 15803 Wagner St - \$482,000

By the numbers

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 18
 LOWEST PRICE: \$256,500
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$944,500
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$625,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$609,333

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 6
 LOWEST PRICE: \$435,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$800,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$502,500
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$570,000

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 13
 LOWEST PRICE: \$306,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,200,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$610,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$624,731

EL CERRILLO

TOTAL SALES: 11
 LOWEST PRICE: \$155,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$760,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$575,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$554,364

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 5
 LOWEST PRICE: \$440,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$740,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$555,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$588,400

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 8
 LOWEST PRICE: \$200,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$460,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$310,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$311,688

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 110
 LOWEST PRICE: \$153,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,877,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$430,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$483,032

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 44
 LOWEST PRICE: \$244,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,000,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$438,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$488,341

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 30
 LOWEST PRICE: \$315,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$665,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$499,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$494,500

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 10
 LOWEST PRICE: \$440,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$619,500
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$520,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$509,250

This list is provided by California Resource, a real estate information company that obtains the information from the County Recorder's Office. Neither California Resource nor this newspaper guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions should be directed to CalResource@aol.com. Call 209-365-6663.



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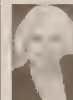
COMING SOON TO THE LAND - OAKLAND



3281 Arizona Street, Oakland

Adorable bungalow located on a serene cul-de-sac. Freshly painted interior, and gleaming hardwood floors grace this warm and special home. The kitchen has been tastefully remodeled with Silestone counter tops and matching tile flooring. The home has good sun-exposure throughout, especially in the spacious eat-in kitchen. Between the 2 bedrooms is a newly remodeled bathroom with a claw foot tub! Enjoy an evening in the formal dining room or take the party out to the deck for a summer BBQ. Charming bonus room in the rear garden that could be used as a home office, craft room, or play area. Level fenced yard. Wonderful curb appeal!

Offered at \$489,000

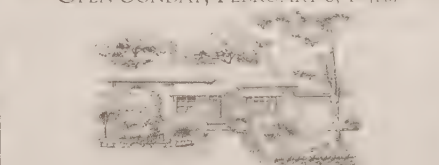


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 REALTOR/HEIGHTS & LAUREL SPECIALIST
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New Listing

OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1-4PM



453 Olive Street, San Leandro

Charming upgraded 2 bedroom, 1 bath home in great condition! Backyard oasis with hot tub, deck, fountain, fruit trees, veggie garden and separate artist's studio. Great location. Photos at pacunion.com.



Offered at \$479,000
 Cindy Houts
 (510) 338-1364



Just Sold! 768 Ridge Avenue



Dramatic views of the Bay, sunsets behind the Golden Gate Bridge & sparkling lights of San Francisco. Traditional architecture with classic features. Entertain on wooden decks & stone patio!

Offered at \$995,000



Pat Brennan
 925.253.6252 Direct
 pbrennan@pacunion.com



NEW LISTING!

OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2-4:30PM



3378 Guido Street, Oakland

This charming split level home features a spacious, open floor plan, fresh paint and refinished hardwood floors. This home also has a living room with fireplace, formal dining, and eat-in kitchen on the main level. A few steps up lead to two spacious bedrooms separated by a beautifully remodeled bath with tub and steam shower. There is a knotty pine rumpus/office down with adjacent laundry and small bath. The two-car garage has inside access. It is situated on a level, sunny lot close to public transit and a beautiful neighborhood park and playground. Great curb appeal.

Offered at \$579,000



Donna DeBardi
 SENIOR SALES ASSOCIATE
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NEW LISTING - PIEDMONT BORDER

OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1-4PM

621 Boulevard Way, Oakland

4 bedroom, 1.5 bath Arts & Crafts beauty. Solarium, formal dining room with built-ins, fireplace in living room, new kitchen with granite counter tops, hardwood floors, fenced yard, newly painted exterior. Many upgrades!

Offered at \$749,000



Wendy Gardner-Ferrari
 ASSOCIATE BROKER (510)338-1303

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COMING SOON TO PIEDMONT!

125 Ronada Avenue, Piedmont

Gracious and charming 2+ bedroom, 2 bath home built in 1945. Modern sunny kitchen with island and granite counters. Gleaming hardwood floors. Master bedroom with fireplace. Beautifully landscaped level yard with fruit trees. Convenient location near schools, shops, parks and transportation.

Offered at \$799,000



KATHY FLYNN
 (510) 338-1317
 kflynn@pacunion.com

www.pacunion.com

NEW LISTING! OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1-5PM

1502 North Street, Berkeley

Charming 1940's Bungalow in North Berkeley. Many established trees surround this 2+ bedroom, 2.5 bath home with formal dining room, living room with working fireplace and hardwood floors. In addition, there are two plus rooms, one with exterior access could be used for a home office/guest suite complete with half bath! Blocks to BART, gourmet shops and Totland.

Online tour with photos at
 www.1502North.com

OFFERED AT \$619,000



Jennie A. Hanigan
 (510) 338-1354
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*5.897% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$350,650 loan amount. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and is subject to maximum 80% estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$350,650 is approximately \$2,128 and includes points. Homeowners insurance is required.
 **5.902% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$500,000 loan amount. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 15 years and subject to maximum 80% estimated payment on jumbo loan amount is approximately \$4,186 and includes points. Homeowners insurance is required.
 ***6.00% estimated loan percentage rate is based on \$500,000. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 20 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80% payment is \$3,583 and includes points. Homeowners insurance is required.

Above programs are based on primary, single family residences, townhouses, and condominiums only. No prepayment penalty required. Cash out allowed up to 75% of restrictions may apply. All credit applications are subject to credit qualifications and underwriting requirements. Rates as of 2/1/05 are subject to change without notice.

CONTACT THE REAL ESTATE EDITOR AT 510-748-1655
OR E-MAIL DEVANOSKY@CCTIMES.COM.

New Listing! Darling Redwood Heights Spanish

OPEN SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2-4:30PM

4323 Carson Street, Oakland

This wonderful home, located in the Redwood Heights school district, exudes warmth and charm. Its delightful exterior is complemented by gracious light interior spaces and a fantastic backyard and deck! Features include: 1+ baths • Formal living and dining rooms • Office • Interior access garage • And Much More!

Offered at \$595,000



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Dick Cohen
SENIOR SALES CONSULTANT
510.338.1308



Enjoy beautiful San Francisco Bay and Golden Gate views from most rooms of this very stylish and spacious 1998 Contemporary home. It is located at the end of a secluded cul-de-sac, in coveted Upper Rockridge.



• 4+ bedrooms, 3.5 marble floor baths • Chef's gourmet kitchen • Large master suite • Charming front courtyard • Two decks • Lovely landscaped yard below

Offered at \$1,315,000



Dee Knowland
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www.DeKnowlandRealty.com



NEW LISTING IN LAUREL

OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2-4:30PM



2421 Scenic Avenue, Oakland

Charming Craftsman bungalow. This cozy two bedroom, one bath home has among its many amenities; a living room with a tile fireplace, built-in bookshelves, and a large eat-in kitchen with a Wolf Range. The well landscaped yard has a patio and star jasmine covered arbor. There is a detached garage.

Offered at \$469,000

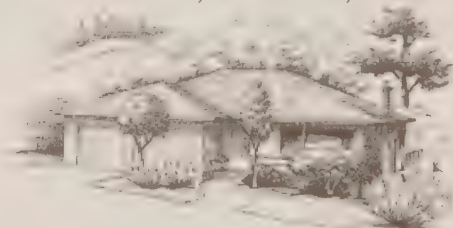
MARTHA HOLSTLAW
(510) 338-1312



www.pacunion.com

REDWOOD HEIGHTS

OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2-5PM



3378 Victor Avenue, Oakland

Charming, sun-filled ranch style home located on a quiet cul-de-sac. Beautiful random plank hardwood flooring in the spacious living room and adjoining dining room, and entryway. Two large bedrooms on the main level. Delightful kitchen with breakfast room and access to rear deck. Downstairs has a large family room, laundry room, bathroom, bonus room and storage area. Large rear yard, 2-car attached garage with interior access to home.

Offered at \$619,000



Diane Earl McCan
REDWOOD HEIGHTS & LAUREL SPECIALIST
(510) 338-1352
Visit my website: www.dianemccan.com



www.pacunion.com

Open Sunday



UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,315,000
6351 CONTRA COSTA RD. (Open 1-4:30)
New Listing! Also open Saturday, Feb. 5, 2-4:30. Stylish & spacious 1998 contemporary home. 1.5BA home w/beautiful SF/GG views. Chef's gourmet kitchen, large master suite, 2-car garage. Landscaped yard. Dee Knowland x1318



LAKESHORE \$749,000
101 ROULEVARD WY. (Open 1-4)
New Listing! Piedmont border. 4BR/1.5BA home. Crafts beauty, Solarium, formal dining room, fireplace in living room, new kitchen, hardwood floors, fenced yard. Many upgrades! Wendy Gardner-Ferrari x1303



MONTCLAIR \$749,000
101 EXETER DR. (Open 1-4)
New Listing! Eleven year old 3BR/2.5BA home. Contemporary in sylvan setting. Living room with fireplace, family room, eat-in kitchen, deck & patio. Attached garage. Mary Danhaki x1356



REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$619,000
101 VICTOR AVE. (Open 2-5)
Charming, sun-filled ranch style home on cul-de-sac. Random plank hardwood floors. 2+BR home w/a fully self-contained quaint cottage in the deep rear garden. Recent upgrades, fresh paint & lots of storage. terrific neighborhood. Steven Biasatti x1379

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Open Sunday



BERKELEY \$619,000
1502 NORTH ST. (Open 1-5)
New Listing! Charming North Berkeley 1940s 2+BR/2.5BA home! Blocks to BART, Totland & gourmet shops. Office/studio with exterior access with half bath. Fireplace & garage. Jennie A. Flanigan x1354

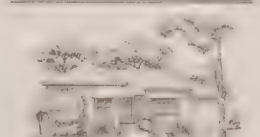


REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$595,000
4323 CARSON ST. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Delightful & charming 2BR/1+BA home. The delightful exterior complements gracious, light interior spaces & a fantastic backyard & deck. Formal living & dining rooms, office, garage w/interior access. Sandi Klemmer x1314 & Dick Cohen x1308



REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$579,000
3378 GUIDO ST. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Delightful 2BR/1+BA split level bungalow. Spacious, open floor plan, fresh paint, hardwood floors. Living room w/fireplace, formal dining & eat-in kitchen. Rumpus room/office, 2-car garage. Great location. Donna DeBardi x1374

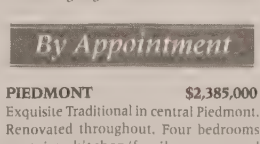
Open Sunday



SAN LEANDRO \$479,000
453 OLIVE ST. (Open 1-4)
New Listing! Upgraded 2BR/1BA home. Backyard oasis with hot tub, deck, fountain, fruit trees, vegetable garden & separate studio! Great location. Cindy Houts x1364



LAUREL \$469,000
2421 SCENIC AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Cozy 2BR/1BA home. Living room with tile fireplace & built-in bookshelves. Large eat-in kitchen with Wolf Range. Well landscaped garden with patio and star jasmine covered arbor. Detached garage. Martha Holstlaw x1312



OAKMORE \$1,475,000
Phil Perkins designed, ultra-sophisticated, 3-year old SF/bay view Contemporary. 5BR/4.5BA architectural masterpiece. Soaring spaces, glass/stainless details, bamboo & inlaid stone floors. Great kitchen/family room. Unique! Steven Biasatti x1379

By Appointment



CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$1,395,000
Stately, light-filled English Tudor in upper Crocker Highlands. Gracious and elegant formal rooms; oversized bedrooms. Level out to park-like back yard with hot tub. 3+BR/4BA, updated kitchen & master bath. Family room & office. Georgia Cornell x1325

RIDGEMONT \$1,280,000
Prime lot w/inspirational Bay & SF views. Secluded 1/2+ acre parcel located at the end of a cul-de-sac. Spectacular home design by Phillip Perkins w/large level area embraced on 3 sides by the home. Minutes to Highway 13. David Ichikawa x1331

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,142,000
Wonderful Monterey Traditional w/beautiful original details, some bay views, beamed cathedral ceiling. Recently remodeled & updated, brick paths meander through pretty gardens up to the house. Leslie Avant x1341



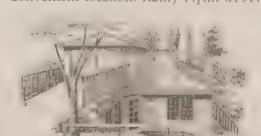
DIMOND \$549,000
Home & cottage! The perfect combination - a wonderfully detailed post Victorian 2+BR home w/a fully self-contained quaint cottage in the deep rear garden. Recent upgrades, fresh paint & lots of storage. terrific neighborhood. Steven Biasatti x1379

Coming Soon

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,650,000
Chic contemporary in desirable neighborhood. Under construction; spring completion. Generous spaces w/plenty of natural light. 4BR/3.5BA, office. David Ichikawa x1331



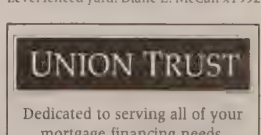
PIEDMONT \$799,000
Gracious & charming 2+BR/2BA home built in 1945. Modern sunny kitchen with island & granite counters. Gleaming hardwood floors. Master bedroom with fireplace. Beautifully landscaped level yard with fruit trees. Convenient location. Kathy Flynn x1317



MONTCLAIR \$695,000
Beautiful sylvan outlook from this 4BR/2BA contemporary home. Open floor plan, updated kitchen and bath, refinished hardwood floors, breakfast room. Master suite with walk-in closet and fireplace. Michelle Miller x1335



LAUREL \$489,000
Adorable 2BR/1BA bungalow on serene cul-de-sac. Gleaming hardwood floors, tastefully remodeled eat-in kitchen & remodeled bath with claw foot tub. Formal dining room, deck & bonus room. Level fenced yard. Diane E. McCan x1352



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Feb. 6
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NEW LISTING



57, Abbott Drive, Montclair

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. A wonderful cottage featuring two bedrooms, two rooms and filtered Bay views. Living room is accented by a brick fireplace, hardwood floors and leaded glass windows. Off the living room is a sun family room with access out to a large deck for entertaining. Great property offers expansion potential. Cul-de-sac location.

Offered at \$549,000



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RED OAK REALTY | Homes Open Sunday

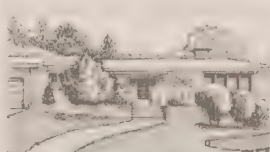
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ALBANY \$429,000
2/1 - Fixer, conveniently located close to El Cerrito Plaza, BART & bus. Albany schools. For more information: www.redoakrealty.com
404 Cornell Avenue Open 2-4



RICHMOND - NEW! \$299,000
2/1 - Cute and cozy starter home with converted garage plus room with a closet. Big back yard and more.
705 Bradford Drive Open 2-4



KENSINGTON \$719,000
3/2.5 - Warm and inviting, solid mid-century with Bay views from Oakland to Marin. Downstairs community room, half bath, workshop & separate entrance. www.BobBlumberg.com
5 Franciscan Way Open 2-5



EL CERRITO \$599,000
3+2.5 - Big, bright & beautiful in excellent location! Family room has wet bar, full bath & separate entrance. SF & bridge views! Great neighborhood! Ready to move in condition
1244 Lawrence Street Open 2-4

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BERKELEY - NEW! \$845,000
3/2 - Spacious & elegant Mediterranean with gorgeous architectural features, beautiful hardwoods, formal dining room, updated kitchen with granite, Bay & Golden Gate views
776 Spruce Street Open 1-5

OAKLAND DUPLEX \$545,000
One 2/1 unit + one 3/1 unit and fireplace in a turn-of-the-century brown shingle. Close to transportation, Piedmont Avenue shops, restaurants and theater. Needs TLC.
520 Oakland Avenue Open 2-4

OAKLAND - NEW! \$389,000
1/1 - Beautiful live/work in historic 43-unit complex. Unit has hardwood floors, updated bath, treasured vaulted ceilings, wall of windows, masonry walls, sleeping unit, more!
730 29th Street #207 Open 2-4

OAKLAND RAW SPACE \$199,000
Light industrial/commercial condo with roll-up door (Not a live unit) in 43-unit historic live/work complex. Stationary tub & 1 assigned parking space. 1,205 sq. ft.
730 29th Street #115 Open 2-4



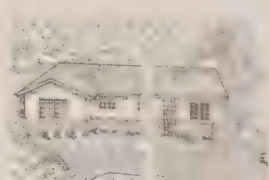
BERKELEY \$389,000
1/1 - Affordable, charming, quiet, sunny, and sophisticated with original architectural details, formal dining room, hardwood floors, high ceilings and private deck - special!
2371 Virginia Street #1 Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW! \$675,000
2/1 - Seclusion & convenience combined! Craftsman bungalow with original details, modern kitchen, private terrace, studio/garage. Piedmont Ave & Fenton's around corner!
56 Entrada Avenue Open 2-4:30



OAKLAND \$659,000
2/1.5 - Wonderful, spacious Craftsman in convenient neighborhood. Hardwood floors, built-ins, stained glass, new redwood deck, large yards front & back, long driveway
4151 Park Boulevard Open 1-4



OAKLAND \$579,000
3+1.5 - A sanctuary away from the hustle & bustle of the city in Montclair. Private front patio plus deck overlooking a lush backyard and wooded views. Lovingly upgraded
6926 Sayre Drive Open 2-4

RODEO \$449,000
4/2 - Sun-filled, single-level home on a large corner lot. Vaulted ceilings in living room, family room with fireplace opening out to big patio. Remodeled kitchen & guest bathroom.
1094 Seascape Circle Open 2-4

OAKLAND - NEW! \$75,000
RAW SPACE - Light industrial/commercial condo with roll-up door (Not a live unit) in 43-unit historic live/work complex. Parking space, sink, concrete slab floor. 480 sq. ft.
730 29th Street #103 Open 2-4

BERKELEY \$489,000
2/1 - Good floorplan, breakfast nook, built-ins, and great level yard for gardening or play. Nice neighborhood close to downtown Berkeley.

OAKLAND \$429,000
2/1 - Desirable Maxwell Park location. Large lot with plenty of expansion potential. Quiet, private neighborhood, trees and sun

-by appointment

EL CERRITO \$980,000
6 UNITS - Located on a quiet street close to E.C. BART, shopping & freeway access. One 3/2, four 2/1 and one 1/1 units.

RICHMOND ANNEX \$479,000
2/1 - Large, chic remodel plus home office/laundry room with period details, great kitchen.

[february 6th]

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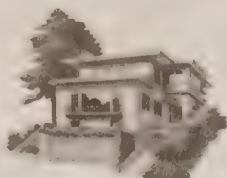


TOM CONE



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OAKLAND - OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30



610 CHETWOOD STREET \$810,000
Prairie style home offering spacious rooms, a cozy dining room & formal staircase. 3+BR upstairs. Kitchen opens to deep, level out landscaped garden. Mavis Delacroix



17 KINGWOOD ROAD 789,000
This modern home features dramatic SF and Golden Gate Bridge view, mastersuite, library, family room, hardwood floors & two-car garage. 3BR/2.5BA. Sherry Benninger

454 HILLER DRIVE \$749,000
Spacious and elegant Hiller Highlands townhome. Soaring ceilings, two fireplaces, garden patio, 3BR/2.5BA. Excellent condition. Elizabeth Dickson



57 ABBOTT DRIVE \$549,000
Two bedrooms, two bath cottage w/Bay views, hardwood floors, leaded stained glass windows, great lot w/expansion potential. Cul-de-sac location. Kurt Buchholz

5679 CARBERRY AVENUE \$525,000
This lovingly maintained storybook home has spacious rooms, 3BR/2BA & is located in the Lora Park neighborhood, a small enclave of charming homes. The Ratcliffes



1764 EXCELSIOR AVENUE \$510,000
A Craftsman beauty in Glenview. Wonderful details and built-ins. Large splendid garden. 2BR kitchen and bath. Erika G.



5340 BROADWAY TERR. \$499,000
Enjoy San Francisco & three bridge views from recently updated condominium. Fantastic floor plan, formal entry, spacious rooms, gas fireplace & sunny patio. Close to College Ave. & restaurants. Adam

BERKELEY & ALBANY - OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30



242 YALE AVENUE \$825,000
Gorgeous & spacious home. Beautiful original character & charm. Lovely front & back gardens. Bay views too! 3BR. Private off-street parking. Ruth Frassetto



1241 GRIZZLY PEAK \$1,395,000
Exciting & sophisticated contemporary. One of the most impressive views in Berkeley. 5BR/3.5BA. Family room & family kitchen. Gorgeous! Nacio Brown



1106 TALBOT AVENUE \$549,000
ALBANY. Sunny bungalow, large garden. Separate building, freshly painted, convenient location. Tidy. 2+BR/1+BA. Anna

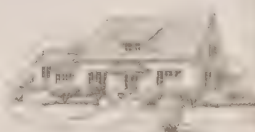
SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT



GRACIOUS TRADITIONAL \$2,600,000
PIEDMONT. This central Piedmont home reflects the solid construction & gracious lifestyle of a bygone era. 5BR/4BA, spacious kitchen & family room. Mindy Scott



ART DECO BEAUTY \$1,475,000
OAKLAND. Dramatic 3BR/4BA Art Deco beauty w/Bay views. Totally renovated w/high-end materials. Spacious rumpus room leads to lovely garden. Angela Wei Grubb



PIEDMONT TRADITIONAL \$799,000
PIEDMONT. Entertain effortlessly in this pristine 1.5BA traditional home w/ spacious public room, craftsmanship Great neighborhood. Margaret



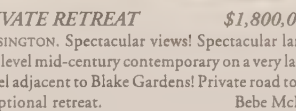
PRIVATE RETREAT \$1,800,000
KENSINGTON. Spectacular views! Spectacular land! One level mid-century contemporary on a very large parcel adjacent to Blake Gardens! Private road to an exceptional retreat. Bebe McRae



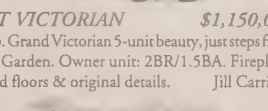
5-UNIT VICTORIAN \$1,150,000
OAKLAND. Grand Victorian 5-unit beauty, just steps from the Rose Garden. Owner unit: 2BR/1.5BA. Fireplace, hardwood floors & original details. Jill Carrigan



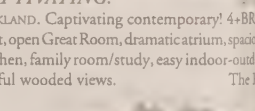
CAPTIVATING! \$799,000
OAKLAND. Captivating contemporary! 4+BR/2.5BA, light, open Great Room, dramatic atrium, spacious kitchen, family room/study, easy indoor-outdoor restful wooded views. The Ratcliffes



WORK OF ART \$1,685,000
BERKELEY. Dramatic yet serene & private home with sweeping San Francisco Bay views. Light-filled rooms with great separation of space & beautiful details. 3+BR/2+BA. Erika Celestre



THOUSAND OAKS \$985,000
BERKELEY. Gracious traditional in prized Thousand Oaks neighborhood. 4BR/2.5BA. Updated kitchen, formal dining room, spacious living room w/built-ins, fireplace & French doors to garden. Susie Schevil



BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS \$629,000
OAKLAND. This updated Crestmont home has a fabulous floorplan, spacious master suite & landscaped grounds w/relaxing hot tub. 3BR/2+BA. Close to parks, shops & transportation. Sherry Benninger

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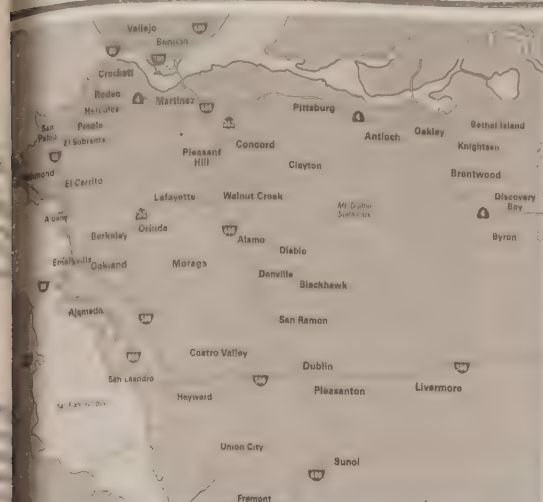
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Bette Barr

1611 Willow Street Duplex
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Tom Bennett/Troy Staten

2276 Sea View Pkwy 2+den/2BA
Harbor Bay 510-769-1845
Rosemary McNally

2809 Yosemite Ave 3BD/1.5BA
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Jane Friedrich

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Sign Nelson

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Harbor Bay Isle 510-814-4842
Coly & Tom Young

404 Cornell Ave 2BD/1BA
510-280-2108
Robin Kingsbury

1106 Talbot Avenue 2+BD/1+BA
510-339-0400
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Alice McLeish

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Coldwell Banker John Michael Powers

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Open Sun 1-5pm 510-292-2034
David Valdez

2877 Shasta 4BD/3BA
Sun 12-3 Berkeley Hills 510-339-4700
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901 Hilldale Avenue 5BD/4.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 531-7000 x262
Wells & Bennett Realtors Teri L. Lester

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Coldwell Banker Bartels Franca Tallero

624 Richmond St 2BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-555-2911
Marvin Gardens Jean & Marni

148 Ashbury Ave 2BD/1BA
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Marvin Gardens Diana Mendler

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Prudential Carol Heath-Kim

8133 Terrace Dr 3+BD/2.5BA
Open Sun 1-4pm 510-662-8469
Security Pacific geristern.com

1315 Rifle Range 5BD/3.5BA
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-662-8558
Security Pacific carladellazoppa.com

3966 El Monte 3BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-845-0211
Prudential Alky Vasdekis

5 Franciscan Way 3BD/2BA
Open Sun 1-4pm 510-292-2013
Red Oak Realty Todd Andrew

242 Yale Ave 3BD/1+BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-652-2133
The Grubb Company Ruth Frassetto

1640 Reliez Valley Rd 5BD/3BA
Open Sun 1-4 888-742-4999
Alain Pinel Realtors Rich Nemeth

Martinez

4296 Cabrillo Dr 3BD/1BA
Sun 2-4pm 510-868-1400
Prudential Mark Hardwicke

730 29th St #103 Commercial
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-280-2105
Red Oak Realty Sara Garabedian

730 29th St #115 Commercial
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-280-2105
Red Oak Realty Sara Garabedian

350 Perkins #205 1BD/1BA
Sun 2-4:30 Adams Point 510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker Darcy Diamantine

3825 High St #204 1BD/1BA
Sun 10-2 510-339-9290
Prudential Erik Johnson

2235 92nd Avenue 3BD/1BA
Sun 2-4 510-748-1139
Gallagher & Lindsey Patricia Gomilla

311 Oak Street #828 -BD/-BA
Sun 1-4 Studio Flat 925-286-6772
Diablo Realty Kathy Monthei

3340 Harrison St 3+BD/1+BA
Open Sun 1-4pm 510-527-5741
RE/MAX Anne Foreman

1556 Tucker St 2BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-334-5805
Coldwell Banker Bartels Joanne Yu

4011 Burckhalter Ave 2BD/1BA
Open Sun 11:30-3:00 Millisum 510-339-8900 x220
C21 Heritage Hal Castle

730 29th St #207 1BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-292-2030
Red Oak Realty Catherine Stern

842-844 Pine St 2BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-845-0211
Prudential Eunice Smith

979 60th St 2BD/1BA
Sun 2-4pm North Oakland 510-507-6050
Keller Williams Realty Roxanne Bruns

2027 26th Ave 2BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 Fruitvale 531-7000 x235
Wells & Bennett Realtors Frank Hennefer

801 Franklin St. 1406 2BD/1.5BA
Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty 510-814-4892
Eunice Edwards

2661 23rd Ave Duplex
Open Sun 2-4:30pm 510-428-0900
Prudential Scott T.

1806 105th Ave 3BD/1.5BA
Open Sun 1-4pm 510-724-1679
Help-U-Sell Louvenia Hollowell

4101 Howe #104 2BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30pm 510-450-7777
Prudential Bill Miller

2421 Scenic 2BD/1BA
Sun 2-4:30 Laurel 510-338-1312
Pacific Union GMAC Martha Holstlaw

2933-2935 Florida St 2 Units
Open Sun 1-4pm Laurel District 510-845-0211
Prudential Adrienne Nash

5040 Daisy St 2BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4:30pm 510-384-3557
Montclair Better Homes Jennie Lippincott

5340 Broadway Terrace 2BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge 510-339-0400
The Grubb Company Adam Betta

1764 Excelsior Ave 2BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 Glenview 510-339-0400
The Grubb Company Erika Celestre

45048 Montgomery 3BD/2BA
Sun 1-4pm Piedmont 510-524-9888x35
Berkeley Hills Realty Denise

5679 Carberry Avenue 3+BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-652-2133
The Grubb Company The Ratcliffes

520 Oakland Ave Duplex
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-292-2009
Red Oak Realty Glauber Canvalho

336 45th St Duplex
Sun 2-4:30pm Temescal 510-339-9290
Prudential Lisa Friedman

3695 Maybelle Avenue 2/2 - 2/1
Sat 2-4 Laurel 510-748-5300
Homes-Link Real Estate Robert Neumann

5312 Manila Ave 1BD/1BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Rockridge 510-339-9290
Prudential Finola Fellner

57 Abbott Drive 2BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-339-0400
The Grubb Company Kurt Buchholz

Oakland

1606 Trestle Glen Rd. 2+BD/1.5BA
Sun 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands 510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker Karyn Miller & Barbara Hardacre

3378 Guido 2+BD/1BA
Sun 2-4:30 Redwood Heights 510-338-1374
Pacific Union GMAC Donna DeBardi

6926 Sayre Dr 3BD/1.5BA
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-292-2021
Red Oak Realty Linda Elkin

366 Oakland 2+BD/1+BA
Sun 12-3 510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker Julie Joyce

4323 Carson 2+BD/1+BA
Sun 2-4:30 Redwood Heights 510-338-1314/1308
Pacific Union GMAC Sandi Klemmer/Dick Cohen

3290 Guido St 2BD/1BA
Sat & Sun 12-5pm 510-834-2010
Prudential John Bell

3769 39th Ave 5BD/2BA
Sat 2-4, Sun 12-3 Laurel 510-851-5096
Keller Williams Realty Joanne Madlung

6358 Thornhill Drive 2BD/2BA
Sun 12-2pm 415-296-2111
McGuire Real Estate Ryan Eyles

68 Garland 6BD/2+BA
510-339-9290
Prudential Tami Bobb

2619 38th Ave 6BD/4BA
Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4892
Harbor Bay Realty Eunice Edwards

3378 Victor Ave 2+BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-5 Redwood Heights 510-338-1352
Pacific Union GMAC Diane E. McCann

4300 Saint Andrews 3+BD/2BA
Sun 2-5 Sequoyah Heights 510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker Adele M. Wong

4151 Park Blvd 2BD/1.5BA
Open Sun 1-4pm 510-280-2189
Red Oak Realty Nicole Forte

8179 Phaeton Dr 4BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Oakland Hills 510-339-9290
Prudential Myrtice Wong

56 Entrada Ave 2BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4:30pm 510-292-2011
Red Oak Realty Tim Cassidy

51 Kimberlin Heights 3BD/2.5BA
Sun 2-5 Oakland Hills 510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker Liat Bostick

524 Spruce 3BD/1.5BA
Sun 1-4pm 510-444-4480
Owner Rose Neld

274 Stantonville 3BD/2.5BA
Sun 2-4:30 510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker Gary & Noni Robinson

454 Hiller Drive 3BD/2.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 Hiller Highlands 510-339-9290
The Grubb Company Elizabeth Dickson

621 Boulevard Way 4+BD/1.5BA
Sun 1-4 Lakeshore 510-338-1303
Pacific Union GMAC Wendy Gardner-Ferrari

6700 Exeter 3BD/2.5BA
Sun 1-4 Montclair 510-338-1356
Pacific Union GMAC Helen Danhaki

17 Kingwood Road 3BD/2.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-0400
The Grubb Company Sherry Benninger

6451 Melville Dr 4+BD/3BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Piedmont Pines 510-339-9290
Prudential Gene Boomer

610 Chetwood Street 3+BD/1.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-0400
The Grubb Company Mavis Delacorte

1929 Oakview Dr. 4BD/3BA
Sun 12-3 510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker Reva Tolbert & Pamela Finney

6690 Girvin Dr 3BD/2.5BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Montclair 510-339-9290
Prudential Filmt/Marchesotti

24 Saroni Ct. 3BD/2.5BA
Sun 1-5 Montclair 510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker Donna Conroy

7315 Snake Road 4+BD/3BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Montclair 510-339-4565
Montclair Better Homes Martha Shin

16 Observation Place 4BD/3BA
Sun 11:30-3 Montclair 510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker Joan Duffield

6351 Contra Costa Rd. 4+BD/3BA
Sat 2-4:30/Sun 1-4:30 Upper Rockridge 510-338-1318
Pacific Union GMAC Dee Knowland

6689 Skyline Blvd 3+BD/3.5BA
Open Sun 12-2:30 Montclair 531-7000 x251
Wells & Bennett Realtors Mary Neuberger

Oakland

6343 Skyline Blvd. 4BD/3.5BA
Open Sun 2-4 510-486-1495
Coldwell Banker Kim & Barbara Marienthal

5895 Grizzly Peak 4BD/3.5BA
Sun 12-3:30pm Oakland Hills 510-339-9290
Prudential Heidi Marchesotti

333 Scenic Ave. 2+BD/3BA
Open Sun 2-5 510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker Haldeh Chew

539 Blair Avenue 4+BD/3.5BA
Sun 2-4:30 510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker Dian Hymer & Carol Browl

65 Wyngaard Ave. 4+BD/3.5BA
Sun 2-4:30 510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker Bonnie Ross & Monica Zuck

1 Portsmouth Rd 6BD/4+BA
Open Sun 1-4pm 510-282-4420
Walkers Realty Terri Bates Walker

1278 Hazel 3BD/2BA
Sun 1-4 510-486-1495
Coldwell Banker Michelle Holm

705 Bradford Dr 2BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-280-2179
Red Oak Realty Robin Gaskins

2010 Coalonga Ave 2BD 1BA
Open 12:00-3:00 510-339-8900 x235
C21 Heritage Heather Gonzalez

3212 Moran Ave 2BD/1BA
Open Sun 1-3pm 510-559-2935
Marvin Gardens Jean Shrem

935 35th St 3BD/1BA
Sat 1-4, Sun 12-3 N & E 510-868-1400
Prudential Jackie Fields

869 Amador St 3BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-252-3040
Marvin Gardens Darrell Hoh

766 Kern St 2BD/1BA
Open Sun 1-4pm 510-527-2700
Marvin Gardens Juliana Wynberg

6604 Aqua Vista Ct 3BD/2BA
Sun 2-4pm Richmond View 510-524-9888x18
Berkeley Hills Realty Maya

649 34th St 3BD/2BA
Open Sun 1:30-4pm N & E 510-662-8469
Security Pacific geristern.com

812 Meadow View Dr 5BD/3BA
Open Sun 1-3:30pm 510-691-1222
Coldwell Banker Bartels Sam Cheng

1094 Seascape 4BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-280-2144
Red Oak Realty Cindy Wilson

453 Olive St. 2+BD/1BA
Sun 1-5 510-338-1364
Pacific Union GMAC Cindy Houts

495 Lewis Ave 3BD 2BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Broadmoor 510-220-6407
Montclair Better Homes Earle Shenk

2404 O'Hatch Dr 3BD/1BA
Open Sun 12-3pm 510-525-2346
Prudential Carol Heath-Kim

7601 Princess Diana Ct 3BD/2BA
Sat 2-4 510-748-1122
Gallagher & Lindsey Carol Martinez

240 Foulkstone 4BD/2.5BA
Sat 1-4 510-748-1169/510-748-1174
Gallagher & Lindsey Joe LoPardo/Mario Mariani

36 Belvedere Ct. 2BD/1.5BA
Sun 2-4 510-522-4449
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ALAMEDA



936-938 PACIFIC AVE. \$789,000
West End Open Saturday 2-4
 One of a Kind Duplex. Well maintained units on a very large lot. Front unit: 2 bedrooms, 1 bath & carport. Large rear unit: 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, a family room, fireplace, dining room and double car garage.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Signe Nelson 510-748-1103



2308 CLINTON AVE. \$530,000
Central Alameda Open Sat & Sun 2-4
 Victorian cottage with 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. Move in condition with new carpet and new paint. All kitchen and laundry appliances are included. And a high basement for expansion. Walk to Park Street shops, beach and South Shore shopping.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 The Hankels 510-748-1184
 Pacita Dimacali 510-748-1148



1611 WILLOW ST. \$660,000
Central Alameda Open Sat & Sun 2-4
 Victorian Duplex. Built in 1892, this Victorian has 2 units each with 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. The lot is approximately 5000 square feet and has 2 driveways. Located near schools, parks and transportation, this Classic Victorian is just waiting for restoration.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Tom Bennett 510-748-1158
 Troy Staten 510-748-1125



2146 CLINTON AVE. \$695,000
Central Alameda By Appointment Only
 Three units in prime residential location. Each unit has 1 bedroom, 1 bath and there are 3 off-street parking spaces. Great potential. Call for appointment.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Alice Garvin 510-748-1116



1410 CENTRAL AVE. \$850,000
Central Alameda By Appointment Only
 Completely renovated Colonial Revival duplex. Each unit is 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. A perfect investment for owner occupied with a rental unit. Or you and a friend can purchase together as "Tenants in Common" for just \$425,000 each and own a 3 bedroom, 2 bath home in Alameda. Please give me a call so that we can explore all your options. www.KeikoSellsHomes.com.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Keiko McDonah 510-522-4449



COMING SOON BARNHILL MARINA \$399,000
 Ready for a change? Want something original and fabulous? Ever thought of living on a floating home? Coming soon - a spacious and full of light floating home at Barnhill Marina with 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths and a great Estuary view. \$525 dock fees per month. Call for more information.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Angela McIntyre 510-377-7733

WEST ALAMEDA \$150,000
Business Opportunity
 West End location. Laundry, wash and fold business with good client base.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Bill & Griselda Bissett 510-917-1617

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REALTORS

Major Life Transitions Are Never Easy

Major life transitions are never easy. But for those who have been lucky enough to work with Angela McIntyre, they discovered how rewarding making the right changes could be. "Big life decisions can be stressful, but making the right move is also exciting," Angela says, "I take pride in helping my clients improve their lives. And by handling as many details as possible, I make it as stress-free as possible for my clients."

Angela has always had a talent for helping people through stressful transitions. Prior to her career in real estate, Angela helped hundreds of people through difficult career changes as a Human Resources Manager for emerging high-tech companies. "What is most satisfying to me is when I've helped someone make a change for the better in their life," she says.

When Angela decided to combine her business acumen with her love of unique bay area communities, real estate was a perfect match. "The bay area is full of so many wonderful communities and homes," she says. "I love showing people the unique places they can live."

Currently, Angela has an exciting listing right on the Alameda/Oakland Estuary with its own 32-foot deep-water dock. "Imagine living with access to the bay!" Angela says. This unique property has two great homes; the main house has three bedrooms, cathedral ceilings, a formal dining room, and a huge deck overlooking the water. The second house is a charming two bedroom cottage with a fireplace in the living room and a wooden deck.

Or how about living on the water, not just near it? Angela's upcoming floating home listing in Barnhill Marina might just be the perfect place for you. Unlike houseboats, floating homes are real homes built right on the water. "It is a very unique place to live, very peaceful and beautiful, the colors of the water are constantly changing," says Angela. "And the community is great, everyone in the marina knows each other."

For more info on these unique properties and communities or others like it, please contact Angela McIntyre at (510) 377-7733.

Angela McIntyre
 Realtor®, e-PRO®

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ALAMEDA



3255-3257 FERNside BLVD. \$1,200,000
Waterfront Property By Appointment Only
 Incredible Opportunity for waterside living & sailing - and income property as well. 2 homes, 32 foot deep water dock. Front cottage is 2 bedrooms, 1 bath with fireplace. Rear tri-level home is 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with incredible view of the estuary. Huge deck for entertaining.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Angela McIntyre 510-377-7733

449-451 PACIFIC AVE. \$645,000
West End By Appointment Only
 2 Houses, 1 Lot. The front house has 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, wood floors, hook-ups for a washer and dryer and a 1 car attached garage. The 1 bedroom, 1 bath rear house has an additional room and storage area.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Rolando & Coqui Basora 510-506-2051

OAKLAND



2235 - 92ND AVE. \$350,000
East Oakland Open Sunday 2-4
 Craftsman style home on large lot with 3 bedrooms and 1 bath. The living room has built-in cabinets, and the formal dining room has craftsman detailing. Off the kitchen is a party for that extra storage. The large backyard offers room to expand.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Patricia Gomilla 510-748-1139

5920 HAYES \$335,000
Seminary District By Appointment Only
 Large lot with fenced in yard. Newer carpeting in living room, new refrigerator and dishwasher, and fresh paint. This 2 bedroom, 1 bath home with laundry room has lots of storage in the attic, unfinished basement and deck in back yard.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Jose Cerda-Zeln 510-748-1197

OAKLAND



COMING SOON SEMINARY AREA \$250,000
 2 bedroom, 1 bath home in the Seminary neighborhood of Oakland. Single level plus a garage and priced to sell.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Ignacio Arechiga 510-748-1196

COMING SOON OAKLAND \$250,000
 Near San Leandro. Oakland home with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath on large lot.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Ignacio Arechiga 510-748-1196

\$810,000

Rockridge
 2004 Median Sales Price

Neighborhood Focus: Rockridge

Many of our clients new to the Bay Area have several East Bay neighborhoods in mind when they start their search. And Rockridge is right up there as being one of the more in demand areas. Rockridge is a unique blend of classic homes, tight-knit neighborhoods and a thriving urban shopping and restaurant district along College Ave. Most prominent is of course Market Hall, a collection of gourmet shops in a European setting, just adjacent to the Rockridge BART station. Come visit the newly expanded Hapuku Fish Shop or stop by Olivetto's and make your dinner reservation for this weekend.

Selling your Rockridge Home?

Troy Staten is working with clients who are focused on buying in the Rockridge area of Oakland. His clients are relocating from Southern California and desire to be close to their friends and family in this area. They are pre-approved up to \$1.3M and were previously looking throughout the East Bay before settling on Rockridge for its many amenities such as College shops and restaurants and proximity to Rockridge BART. Their dream home has one bedroom and one bath on the main floor and a two car garage or equivalent bonus space for an art studio. Bay or canyon views of course would be a plus. If your home fits this description, or you know of one that might be for sale soon, please contact Troy Staten at (510) 748-1125.



Troy has a buyer for you!

*Sales data compiled from EBRD using

510.521.8181
www.GallagherandLindsey.com

◆ West End Alameda - 1410 Webster Street

◆ East End Alameda - 2424 Central Avenue

◆ Harbor Bay Alameda - 887 Island Drive, #218

OAKLAND



10411 PEARMAIN ST. \$510,000
East Oakland By Appointment Only
 Great single family home on a corner lot. In 1940, this home has 2 bedrooms and hardwood floors. Front and side landscaped.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Guinevere Holder aka "Jenny" 510-748-1184

RICHMOND

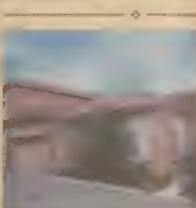


31 HARBOR VIEW DR. \$510,000
Marina Bay By Appointment Only
 Located in Sunset Pointe where the don't disappoint. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, cathedral ceilings and fireplace. Views from dining room, kitchen, family room, loft and master bedroom. Near marina and park.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Stephanie Neher 510-748-1184

VALLEJO



246 FOULSTONE \$510,000
Glen Cove Open Saturday 2-4
 Large 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home in Ensenada. Vaulted ceilings in the living room, dining room with tile floor, fireplace and tile flooring and counter. The kitchen and eating area. Easy near yard and 2 car garage.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Joe LoPano 510-748-1184
 Mario Mariani 510-748-1184



7601 PRINCESS DIANA CT. \$510,000
Tiara Development Open Saturday 2-4
 Located in a gated community, this 3100 sq ft 2 bath luxury townhome has many custom shades, security system, lighting, tile flooring and counter top. Wired for stereo system, gas line for patio, hot tub in large landscaped yard. Close to shopping, a park and transportation.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Carol Martinez 510-748-1184

EL CERRITO



COMING SOON EL CERRITO \$510,000
El Cerrito Hills By Appointment Only
 Lovely Craftsman home nestled in the hills with a stunning panoramic view of Albany Hill, Angel Island and the Golden Gate Bridge. With an addition and a 1.5 bathroom, this well maintained home has desirable features & amenities.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Iris Murillo 510-748-1184

PATTERSON



COMING SOON PATTERSON \$510,000
Patterson By Appointment Only
 Approximately 15 acres of flat ground, large main house of about 3800 sq ft built in 2003 and extra living space of 1200 sq ft across the driveway. There is a horse area adjacent to the main house.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Joe LoPano 510-748-1184
 Mario Mariani 510-748-1184

SPORTS

• Friday, February 4, 2005 •

Section C

ACCAL NOTEBOOK

Shake up works for Pinole

By Robert Jordan
STAFF WRITER

ALATE-SEASON overhaul of a team's starting lineup is the type of thing that can destroy chemistry, that is, unless you are the Pinole Valley High School boys soccer team.

At the players' urging, first-year coach Anthony Lamboy moved his offensive players to defense and vice versa last Wednesday and the result was a 1-1 tie with the Spartans tying Alameda 1-1 on Jan. 27.

"We just talked and tried to figure out what we could change because nothing seemed to be working," Lamboy said.

The switch paid off earlier as Javier Gomez scored in the game's first five minutes.

Before the Alameda game the Spartans were 1-7-1 in the Contra Costa Athletic League, while the Hornets were 2-3-3 and had beaten Pinole Valley 5-1 in their first meeting on Dec. 16.

"Everybody was for (the change)," said senior Paul Thompson who switched from defender to sweeper. "What we were doing before wasn't doing any good."

Thompson and fellow captain Taylor Bradbury and Chamberlain were the main players pushing for the change.

"Change is good," said Chamberlain who went from defender to midfielder. "It is good for the team and helps us to the top."

While they may not get to top this season, the Spartans are hoping to play spoiler to teams looking to get a postseason bid and to build for next year.

Pinole Valley graduates four

See ACCAL, Page 2

ACCAL NOTEBOOK

Piedmont the class of BSAL

By Dave Carpenter
STAFF WRITER

THE PIEDMONT High School girls soccer team's undefeated streak in the Bay Shore Athletic League this season is alive and well.

Most don't expect Highlanders coach Karyn Shipp to finish.

"We have to treat every game as a new game because soccer you just never know," said Shipp. "One fluke goal and we're a game."

Piedmont certainly will not rest today as it travels to Breaux to play a 3:30 p.m. game.

The Highlanders are 14-2-1, 1-1 in the BSAL. They hold an eight-point lead over the Eagles (10-1-2), who are in second place.

Piedmont beat Breaux Christian 3-1 on Jan. 5.

Shipp knows her team cannot win a guarantee. The Highlanders' lone tie this season was against third-place St. Mary's (7-1-4 BSAL) on Jan. 26.

Before that, the Highlanders had been beaten or tied in BSAL since Feb. 4, 2004. Breaux Christian has two 1-1 ties with St. Mary's. The Eagles tied the Panthers in their BSAL match on Jan. 26.

St. Mary's has a nasty habit of tying its opponents (all by one-goal scores). The Panthers played to a 1-1 draw against Albany on Jan. 21.

WING WIN: Kennedy's 59-49 win in boys basketball over St. Joseph Notre Dame on Monday was the biggest BSAL victory in the league in two years.

athletic director Harry Campbell, who is in his 12th

See BSAL, Page 2

Lowhorn, Berkeley have plenty in reserve

By Robert Jordan
STAFF WRITER

Berkeley High School boys basketball coach Mike Gragnani admits he has a deep team.

And the Yellow Jackets get even deeper when Dior Lowhorn is added to the bench.

A late bathroom break before tipoff forced Lowhorn to the bench, but the Texas Tech-bound senior still scored a game-high 19 points as Berkeley beat host El Cerrito 73-51 in Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League play on Tuesday.

The win kept Berkeley unbeaten in the ACCAL at 7-0 and improved it to 15-3 overall. El Cerrito dropped to 3-4 in the ACCAL and 7-10 overall.

Lowhorn sparked Berkeley's bench in the first half, scoring 10

PREP BASKETBALL

points to help the Yellow Jackets' reserves outscore El Cerrito's 23-2 before halftime.

"We are deep," Gragnani said. "We have a lot of guys that can play. It is just a matter of us maintaining positive chemistry with multiple combinations."

Kevin Tyler didn't have any problems with chemistry. He scored Berkeley's first four points and then keyed an 18-9 game-ending run for the Yellow Jackets with 10 points. He finished with 18 points.

"I just knew I had to step my game up for the benefit of the team," Tyler said.

After a basket by El Cerrito's Kaya Fitzgerald cut Berkeley's

lead to 53-42 with 5:25 to play, Tyler responded with 10 of Berkeley's next 13 points to push the lead to 66-47 with 1:54 left.

"They wore us down with their big-man play," El Cerrito coach Antonio Scott said. "We're a scrappy team, and Daymon (Warren) is just a freshman. So we can't ask too much of him."

Warren is the Gauchos' tallest player at 6-foot-6 and finished the game with six points.

Kenny Leaks scored 11 points to lead El Cerrito.

The Gauchos had started league play 3-0 before dropping their last four games to De Anza, Pinole Valley, Richmond and Berkeley.

Senior Fred Mayfield had

been a key to El Cerrito opening league 3-0, but he reinjured his ankle against De Anza and is out for the season, according to coach Scott.

"In the preseason we lost four straight games and weren't playing well," Scott said. "But we bounced back with five straight wins. We just have to get ready for the second half (of league) and make some adjustments."

Ryan White scored eight points and teammates Milton Brown and Steve Randle and Darnell Quinney each had six for El Cerrito.

Berkeley's Greg Holt and Khalid Nassimuddin scored eight points and Ronald Pugh, Robert Mitchel and Jonathan Williams had five.

BERKELEY'S Kevin Tyler (15) puts up a shot between Steve Randle, left, and Kenny Leaks.

DEAN COPPOLA/STAFF



LARRY GURGANIOUS drives to the basket against Salesian. The Gonzaga-bound forward has led St. Mary's to a 19-1 record (7-0 BSAL).

Star player rescues Panthers

■ Gurganious scores 12 of his 24 in the fourth quarter as St. Mary's rallies past Salesian

By Chace Bryson
STAFF WRITER

When it was time to take over, Larry Gurganious didn't waste any time.

The St. Mary's High School boys basketball team's star forward scored 12 of his game-high 24 points in the fourth quarter to lead his team on a 14-2 run that lifted the Panthers to a 57-51 Bay Shore Athletic League victory over Salesian on Friday at Albany High School.

The Chieftains (14-5, 5-1 BSAL) held a 49-43 advantage with 2:48 remaining in the game when Gurganious hit a turnaround jumper that sparked seven straight points that would give St. Mary's a 50-49 lead with 1:09 to play.

"I thought our team definitely needed a pickup," said Gurganious of his fourth-quarter effort.

BOYS PREP ROUNDUP

"I felt I hadn't been doing it the whole game, so I might as well get it going and pick the team up."

Coupled with Gurganious' fourth-quarter effort was a breakdown by Salesian over the last three minutes of the game. The Chieftains had seven turnovers in the fourth quarter, and gave it away on four of their last five possessions.

"They played smarter than us down the stretch," Salesian coach Bill Mellis said. "They made the plays they had to, and they deserved to win."

St. Mary's came into the game as the top-ranked Division IV team in the state, according to calhisports.com.

Salesian recently fell from the top spot to No. 5 after a loss to Campbell Hall-North Hollywood.

The Panthers and Chieftains are scheduled to meet a second time at Contra Costa College on Feb. 12. And a pair of playoff matchups — in the BSAL and

North Coast Section tournaments — isn't an unlikely concept.

"This is what you expect (when these teams meet)," Gurganious said. "If we play three more times, it's going to be three just like this."

Gurganious also had nine rebounds and three steals to go with his 24 points.

"That's what a Division I prospect does," Mellis said of Gurganious, who is headed to Gonzaga.

"That's what he's supposed to do for them, and that's what he did."

Dijon Edwards and Andrew Gipson each had 12 points to lead Salesian.

St. Mary's 68, St. Patrick 41: Gurganious scored a team-high 16 points, as the visiting Panthers (19-1, 7-0 BSAL at press time) jumped out to a 22-5 lead on the way to victory Monday.

Albany 55, Piedmont 52: The host Cougars (5-16, 3-4 BSAL at press time) received 14 points from Nick Goldenson and 13 points from Arash Riahi in the victory over the Highlanders on Monday. The Cougars outscored Pied-

mont 20-12 in the second quarter.

PIER BOYS SOCCER

Berkeley 2, Hercules 0: Erik Strauss and Nadav Kariv each scored a goal to lead the host Yellow Jackets on Jan. 27.

Strauss opened the scoring eight minutes into the match off an assist from Colin Searles. Kariv provided insurance at 63 minutes off a feed from Charlie Enscoe.

Richmond 3, Berkeley 0: The league-leading Oilers scored twice in the first half on their way to a win over the visiting Yellow Jackets (5-7-4, 5-4-2 ACCAL at press time) on Tuesday.

El Cerrito 1, Hercules 1: David Ball scored the Gauchos' goal in the 44th minute. Ruben Munguia had seven saves for the visiting Gauchos (1-7-3 ACCAL at press time) on Tuesday.

Richmond 5, El Cerrito 1: The host Gauchos fell behind 3-0 in the first four minutes of the game on Jan. 27. Justin Syren scored for El Cerrito.

Breaux Christian 2, St. Mary's 1: The Eagles took a 2-0

See BOYS, Page 2

GIRLS PREP ROUNDUP

Albany comes up short

By Ben Enos
CORRESPONDENT

The Piedmont High School girls soccer team used a break-away goal in the 56th minute by freshman Taylor Lee to provide the difference in an otherwise tight contest as it remained undefeated in the BSAL with a 1-0 win over visiting Albany on Friday.

Piedmont (14-2-1, 13-0-1 BSAL at press time) proved the aggressor throughout the first half as it kept constant pressure on the Cougars defense, keeping the ball on the Albany side of the field most of the time.

Despite the pressure, sweeper Lindsey Fuller led the Albany defense with a number of timely clearances, keeping the score even after one half.

Once the second half began, Highlanders junior Casey Hollis found some daylight up the sideline and threaded a cross in between two Cougar defenders. Lee found herself immediately flanked by two more Cougars once the ball got to her but managed to split them and drive the game-winner home from 7 yards out.

Albany was never able to find a rhythm offensively as the Highlanders used their own sweeper, Sydney Choi, to help defend leading scorer Emma Kemp. The double-teaming kept Kemp away from the goal for much of the game, neutralizing the Cougars' top threat.

After the game, Piedmont coach Karyn Shipp discussed the game plan her team used in keeping Kemp and the Cougars offense at bay.

"We didn't target her specifically, but of course we knew where she was. That's why you have a sweeper, so she can step up and help with a player like that," she said.

Albany 9, Holy Names 0: The host Cougars (8-6-2, 8-4-2 BSAL at press time) received a hat trick from Rebecca Pickus and two goals from Rebecca Krow-Boniske in the BSAL win Monday.

St. Mary's 2, St. Joseph 0: The visiting Panthers received goals from Kristin White and Kim Clincy on Monday to improve to 8-2-4 overall and 8-1-4 in BSAL play at press time.

St. Mary's 4, John Swett 0: Clincy had two goals in the first seven minutes of the game on Friday, as the host Panthers defeated John Swett.

Breaux Christian 1, St. Mary's 1: Michelle Mason opened the game's scoring for host St. Mary's on Jan. 26, but the Eagles' Valerie Barnes tied the score at 65:00.

El Cerrito 4, Hercules 0: Ali-cen Cerrito had two goals to lead the host Gauchos (12-7-1, 7-3-1 Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League at press time) to victory on Tuesday.

El Cerrito 8, Richmond 0: Averil Mortimer had a hat trick and teammate Gaby Baker had two goals for the visiting Gauchos on Jan. 27.

Berkeley 8, Hercules 0: Haley Geller had a hat trick and Theresa Henle added two goals for the visiting Yellow Jackets in their win on Jan. 27.

See GIRLS, Page 2

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	Newark Memorial	18-3	Outscored MVAL opponents by 135 points through first six games
2.	Berkeley	14-3	Survive triple-overtime scare at Pinole Valley; Dior Lowhorn scores just 12
3.	De La Salle	14-3	Quietly taking care of business in the BVAL
4.	St. Mary's	17-1	Panthers' last loss, at press time, was Dec. 10
5.	Pinole Valley	14-2	Only losses have come by a combined four points to DLS and Berkeley
6.	Salesian	14-4	Chieftains upended in trip to unbeaten Campbell Hall-North Hollywood
7.	Campolindo	15-3	Second buzzer-beater victory keeps Cougars undefeated in DFAL
8.	San Ramon Valley	16-3	Leaves no doubt in 27-point pounding of rival Monte Vista
9.	San Leandro	15-3	Pirates lose stronghold on HAAL, fall to Hayward 67-50
10.	Bishop O'Dowd	10-7	Tough nonleague schedule kept Dragons under the radar

Others receiving votes: Alhambra (15-2), Deer Valley (12-5), McClymonds (14-6). The prep boys basketball poll incorporates all East Bay high schools and is compiled by the staff of Contra Costa Newspapers. Records are through Jan. 26.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	Piedmont	16-1	Tops Long Beach Poly in a showdown between hoops powers
2.	Oakland Tech	11-5	Big second half propels Bulldogs over St. Mary's-Berkeley 77-60
3.	Carondelet	12-3	Win over St. Mary's-Stockton may have been the Cougars' biggest this season
4.	Moreau Catholic	16-1	Victories over Bishop O'Dowd, San Lorenzo give Mariners control of HAAL
5.	Pinole Valley	15-1	Spartans perched atop the ACCAL after two big wins
6.	Deer Valley	14-2	Wolverines have beaten last six opponents by an average of 24 points
7.	Castlemont	18-2	Recovers from loss to Oakland Tech to beat Fremont-Oakland, McClymonds
8.	El Cerrito	15-2	Loss to Pinole Valley snaps Gauchos' 14-game winning streak
9.	Miramonte	13-3	Gutty comeback falls short in loss to Division I power Deer Valley
10.	St. Mary's	10-7	Panthers tested by Albany but still prevail 54-49

Other receiving votes: Fremont-Oakland (16-3). The prep basketball poll incorporates all East Bay high schools and is voted on by the staff of Contra Costa Newspapers. Records are through Jan. 26.

ACCAL

FROM PAGE 1

seniors from this year's team.

TITLE TILT: Starting Saturday, De Anza and Richmond — the league's top two teams — will face each other twice within the next four days.

Richmond hosts De Anza on Saturday at 6 p.m. and then travels to face the Dons at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Heading into Thursday's match with Hercules, the Oilers led the league with 28 points, followed by the Dons with 23.

The two teams are separated by five points in the standings with three games left.

Results of Thursday's games were unavailable at press time.

INJURY TIMEOUT: The De Anza boys basketball team lost two players, Michael Johnson

and Harrison Rheinhardt, in less than a week's span to non-basketball related injuries.

A sophomore, Rheinhardt suffered a broken hand last week before the Encinal game, and Johnson, a junior, missed Tuesday's game against Pinole Valley after spraining his ankle before the game.

NEAR-UPSETS: The first- and second-place boys basketball teams in the ACCAL both had close calls on Jan. 27.

Berkeley, which is undefeated in ACCAL play (7-0), had to hold off a surging Hercules squad to win 73-69. The Titans scored 29 points in the fourth quarter to get close.

Hercules' Brandon Wiley had a double-double with a team-high 20 points and 13 rebounds.

Teammate Derrick Dickens had 18 points. Berkeley's Dior Lowhorn paced all scorers with

29 points. Hercules, which beat Richmond 67-61 on Tuesday, has a 4-3 league record.

Pinole Valley, which is in second place in the ACCAL with a 6-1 mark, trailed Alameda 34-30 at halftime but held off the Hornets 76-72 to win the game. Alameda outscored the Spartans 26-22 in the fourth quarter, but a 24-12 third-quarter advantage for Pinole Valley was the difference.

Alameda, which is 0-6 in league play, was paced in scoring by Justin Chan with 19 points. Teammates Andy Peterson had 17 points and Kyle Takahashi added 12 points and eight assists. Pinole Valley's Ron Manigault led all scorers with 27 points.

Times staff writer Phil Jensen contributed to this notebook.

BSAL

FROM PAGE 1

year at the school.

He compared it to Kennedy's 55-48 victory over St. Joseph in the 2003 BSAL playoffs, which sent the Eagles to the league championship game against St. Mary's. The Panthers went on to win the league title.

Campbell said Monday's win put Kennedy among the top teams in the BSAL.

"It shows we're one of the best teams in the league," he said. "St. Joseph is a program."

Kennedy improved to 6-1 in the BSAL while St. Joseph fell to 4-3. St. Mary's was 7-0 after Monday and Salesian 5-1.

The Eagles also beat host Sheldon-Sacramento in December and won that school's tournament. It was the first time in at least 12 years the Kennedy boys have won a tournament, according to Campbell.

On Monday, Kennedy changed its strategy throughout the game to counter what

St. Joseph was trying to do. "We kept switching from man to zone and we kept attacking the basket," second-year coach Michael Booker said.

Therin Taylor scored 25 points to lead the Eagles, who improved to 15-6 and 6-1 in the BSAL.

POWER OUTAGE: It was the night the power went out at Salesian High.

The Salesian girls basketball team was scheduled to host St. Mary's last Friday night, but an electrical outage caused by

heavy rains postponed the game.

"We were all ready to play," Salesian coach Steve Cuevas said. "The freshmen played. The junior varsity played. Everyone was revved up to play. The clock was running down. Then, a minute before the game, the lights went out and never came back on."

A half-hour later, the game was called off when power still had not been restored.

The Chieftains and Panthers are rescheduled to play at Salesian on Saturday at 7 p.m.

Boys

FROM PAGE 1

halftime lead in the BSAL win on Jan. 26. Miles Hadley scored for visiting St. Mary's.

St. Mary's 6, John Swett 0: Gavin Taylor had two goals to lead the visiting Panthers past the Indians on Friday.

St. Mary's 2, Piedmont 0: The host Panthers (9-5-3, 9-3-1 BSAL at press time) received goals from Hadley and John Lahoud in the victory.

St. Elizabeth 1, Albany 0: Cougars goalkeeper Evan Schu-

macher had 10 saves, but the host Mustangs had the game's only goal at the 22-minute mark on Jan. 26.

Piedmont 3, Albany 2: Eric Mungia and Chris Lewis scored for the host Cougars (4-8-2 BSAL at press time) in the first 23 minutes of Friday's game for a 2-1 Albany lead. But Piedmont countered with two goals in a five-minute stretch of the first half and held on for the BSAL win.

WRESTLING

Albany 39, St. Patrick 35: In the last match of the night and with the outcome on the line, Robby Nichols left little suspense, pinning Timothy Foster in 22 seconds.

onds at the 277-pound class to give the host Cougars a BSAL victory on Jan. 27.

Mark Anders (114) and Daniel Singh (121) won their matches by pin, while Raphael (105) and Tarek (191) won by technical decision, respectively, for (4-0 BSAL at press time).

St. Patrick (3-1 BSAL at press time) recorded five pins. Arlow Anderson (137) pinned Patwinder Singh in 22 seconds.

Staff writer Phil Jensen contributed to this roundup.

Girls

FROM PAGE 1

Berkeley 10, Richmond 0: The host Yellow Jackets (15-4-1, 10-0-1 ACCAL at press time) received two goals apiece from Kira Mandella and Geller in the win on Tuesday.

BASKETBALL

Berkeley 78, El Cerrito 57: The host Yellow Jackets (11-7, 6-1 ACCAL) outscored the Gau-

chos (16-3, 5-2 ACCAL) 25-13 in the third quarter and 49-30 in the second half to win an important ACCAL game on Tuesday. Jasmine Perkins paced Berkeley with 19 points, and teammate Danesha Wright added 18 points.

El Cerrito's Myleka Emerson led all scorers with 20 points.

Berkeley 54, Hercules 44: Wright scored a game-high 21 points as the visiting Yellow Jackets broke a 10-10 tie with a 23-14 run in the second quarter on

Jan. 27.

El Cerrito 59, Richmond 57: Ashley Rollins scored a high 14 points to lead the chos in double figures against host Oilers on Jan. 27.

St. Mary's 72, St. Patrick 61: The Panthers (12-7, 6-1 BSAL at press time) outscored the host Oilers in the first quarter 19-6 in the first quarter. Command Monday. Sneed and Cristina Thomas had 17 points for St. Mary's.

Obituaries and In Memoriam



Arabelle Hufbauer

5/2/14 - 1/26/05

California native Arabelle McKee Hufbauer, born in Pescadero May 2, 1914, died in Berkeley on January 26, 2005. She was the child of Ernest McKee, a lumberman from Humboldt County, who was then felling redwoods in the valleys behind the fishing and Humboldt rancher's daughter Norine Clark McKee, who had one daughter before being widowed a few years earlier along the Eel River, notably Weott (then known as McKee). Arabelle relished vivid memories of its lush redwood groves, tended high school in Fortuna until, when she was junior, her parents learned that the timid principal would not recommend any student for admission to the University of California. The family of six moved down to San Mateo, where the high-school principal promised Arabelle would be recommended if her grades were high. In 1930, she entered UC's architecture program in 1930 (at age 16) and students (virtually all men). In 1936, shortly after taking M.A., she married fellow student and San Diego Clyde Hufbauer who had recently received the program's highest degree (Architect). They set up household in San Diego, where Arabelle gave birth to Karl (1937), Gary (1939), and Joyce (1945) and Clyde worked as architect for the war-impacted city-school system. They lived in earnest homes of their own design, a modest starter in Mission (built 1939), then thirteen years later an ample redwood-cedar in La Jolla. This move was made possible by Clyde's successful architect specializing in schools. Meanwhile, however, she was increasingly estranged from him for a variety of reasons, including his opposition to her entry into architectural work. The marriage ended in 1960. Three years later, Arabelle returned to Berkeley where her aging parents then lived. This became her residence for her remaining forty-two years. Arabelle's involvement in the visual arts intensified. She was a talented oil painter both in the mid-1970s she had an art gallery on University Avenue and also practiced her architectural skills on apartment renovations, buquerque and house renovations in Berkeley. Yet, she could regard "homenaker" as her primary occupation. She brought a site aesthetic sense to bear in her several living environments, played a profound shaping role in a large social network of friends. Two granddaughters arranged a gala party for Arabelle's 90th birthday at Berkeley's Saint John's Presbyterian Church, she sometimes attended with her daughter. Nearly one hundred family members and friends, one from as far away as London, gathered with her. In her own short talk, she roused a great cheer when she ended by saying "I'm looking forward to my nineties". Hufbauer is survived by her brothers Ernest (Max) McKee, Ukiah and Robert McKee of Santa Clara, her children Karl Hufbauer of Seattle, Gary Hufbauer of Washington, D.C., and Joyce Campbell Berkeley, five grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at Berkeley's Friends Meeting House of worship, March 5th. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, P.O. Box 1137, Berkeley 94701.



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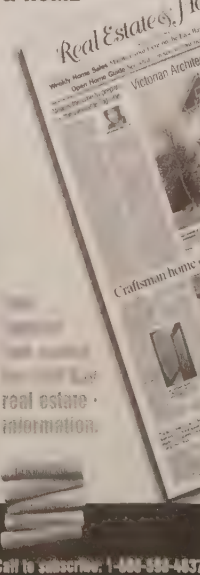
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NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. Reviewers are Mary F. Pols, Times; Marta Barber, Robert W. Butler, Chris Hewitt, Steven Rea and Carrie Riskey, Knight Ridder; Brad Kava, Glenn Lovell and Bruce Newman, San Jose Mercury News; David Garman, Christy Lemire and Ben Nukelski, Associated Press; Anita Gales, Duane Kehr, Elvis Mitchell and A.D. Scott, New York Times; Jani Bono and Jack Mathews, New York Daily News; Phoebe Flowers, South Florida Sun-Sentinel; Evan Hrusar, Valerie Kulkenski, Fred Grusar, Bob Strauss and Glenn Whips, Los Angeles Daily News; Carmine Chocano, Kevin Cruz, Manohla Dargis, Kevin Thomas and Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times; Ed Bark, Nancy Churnin, Gary Dowell, Tom Maersted, Tom Sime, Chris Vognar and Philip Wynch, Dallas Morning News; Jay Burt and Roger Moore, Los Angeles Sentinel; Joe Bialke, Sacramento Bee; Ty Burr, Catherine Foster and Wesley Morris, Boston Globe; Robert Denerstein, Rocky Mountain News; Ann Hornaday, Stephen Lee, Michael O'Sullivan and Desmond Thomson, Washington Post.

"ALIENS OF THE DEEP": When director James Cameron proclaimed himself King of the World, who knew he had designs on the rest of the system? This IMAX-3D film is a gorgeous hybrid of undersea documentary and outer-space fantasy. — M. Pols. (R) 48 minutes. A

"ALONE IN THE DARK": In this "28 Days Later"/"Alien" hybrid, the unrelenting hilarity begins with party girl Anna Field, cast as a brilliant archaeologist. You know, the sort who wears a bikini, carrying the tort to her museum. Christian Slater deserves props for not embarrassing himself as a "paranormal investigator" who announces "I hunt and track down the strange and the unusual." — C. Hewitt. (R) 1 hour, 48 minutes. F

"ARE THERE YET?": A rip-off of "Phenomena," "Trans & Automobiles." Affable Nick (Ice Cube), hoping to score points with beautiful single mother Vanessa (Nia Long), transports her children (Aisha Allen and Philip Rickard) are smug little snobs, and he, a bit, belittles and abuse poor Vanessa. In contrast, John Kinsey starts to look like great company for a road trip. The emotional connection between Nick and the kids, when it finally arrives, is forced late. Not even Helen of Troy

would be worth putting up with these brats. — M. Pols. (PG) language and rude humor.) 1 hour, 27 minutes. F

"THE ASSASSINATION OF RICHARD NIXON": A bleak but beautifully acted movie about one of history's real losers, Sam Byck, who hatched a failed plot to kill Richard Nixon after becoming disgusted with the dishonesty of our culture. Sean Penn is masterful as a train wreck waiting to happen, but you come away feeling that director Niels Mueller may be trying to make an Everyman case for Byck that isn't really genuine; he seems more mentally ill than mad. With Naomi Watts as the wife who has forsaken him. — M. Pols. (R) language and scene of graphic violence.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. B-

"ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13": Re-make of a 1976 action thriller. One snowy New Year's Eve, a handful of cops in an antiquated precinct find themselves under siege by dozens of masked gunmen. To survive, the sergeant in charge (Ethan Hawke) forms an uneasy alliance with the prisoners, including a crime boss (Laurence Fishburne). The movie delights in bloodshed and invites us to share in that joy by presenting us with a number of characters so irritating, we want them dead. With Maria Bello and John Leguizamo. — M. Pols. (R) strong violence and language throughout, some drug content.) 1 hour, 49 minutes. C-

"THE AVIATOR": Martin Scorsese's thoroughly absorbing look at the life of Howard Hughes, millionaire, recluse and infamous eccentric. The story is focused on Hughes' younger, triumphant years, with Leonardo DiCaprio doing a fine job bringing him to life. The film says safely sympathetic to Hughes, lics and all, which holds it back from greatness, but it is sumptuous, confident and well-acted, exactly what you want in a holiday movie. And Cate Blanchett's gangster performance as Katharine Hepburn is not to be missed. — M. Pols. (PG-13) thematic elements, sexual content, nudity, language and a crash sequence.) 2 hours, 49 minutes. B+

"BAD EDUCATION": Just in the time for the holidays, a Pedro Almodovar film about a chain of tragic events begun by a priest sexually abusing a young boy at a Catholic school. This is Almodovar's venture into the territory of film noir, and he brings both his naughty Spanish sensibility to it and his amazing ability to create a

story with multiple layers. The It boy of Latin America, Gael Garcia Bernal, plays no less than three roles, and there's a movie within a movie within a movie. It sounds confusing, but Almodovar never lets us founder. — M. Pols. (NC-17: contains a scene of explicit sexual content.) 1 hour, 49 minutes. A-

"BEING JULIA": Based on Somerset Maugham's novella "Theatre," this movie sets out to prove there's no people like show people. The story is set in London in 1938, where aging stage actress Julia Lambert (Annette Bening) enacts her revenge against everyone who has brought her low: Tom, her loutish lover; Michael, her philandering husband, who is sleeping with an ingenue hungry for a part; and the ingenue who is using both of Julia's men to get to Julia. — B. Newman. (R: some sexuality.) 1 hour, 44 minutes. C+

"BEAUTIFUL BOXER": A deeply affecting odyssey traces the life of the son of itinerant farm workers. The film, based on a true story, tells of a Thai fighter who competes in full makeup and uses his winnings to pay for a sex-change operation. Nong Toom (a thoroughly persuasive Asanee Suwan), who struggles with his gender identity, has an awesome kickboxing technique and ruthless winner's spirit. — K. Thomas. (Not rated: In Thai with subtitles.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. B

"BEYOND THE SEA": You won't believe Kevin Spacey for a minute as the late, sort of great hep-cat singer Bobby Darin in this flop, campy biopic. The actor is too good to play Darin, especially when paired with a very young Kate Winslet as Sandra Dee. Some decent production numbers, but Darin remains beyond Spacey's grasp. — R. Moore. (PG-13: strong language, a scene of sensuality.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. C

"CLOSER": This riveting, challenging relationship movie by director Mike Nichols ("Carnal Knowledge") does us no favors. It's full of selfish, ignoble behavior with no explanation of why. Half the fun comes from power-house performers — Julia Roberts, Jude Law, Natalie Portman, Clive Owen — giving potent performances, often against type. — M. Pols. (R: sequences of graphic sexual dialogue, nudity/sexuality, language.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. B+

"COACH CARTER": Based on the real-life story of former Richmond High School basketball coach Ken Carter, whose decision in 1999 to

bench his winning team because of bad grades created a firestorm of publicity. Samuel L. Jackson lends his considerable cool to the character and provides plenty of inspiration. The story may be typical of formulaic sports movies, but it's also believably gritty, occasionally amusing and ultimately touching. — M. Pols. (PG-13: violence, sexual content, language, teen partying and some drug material.) 2 hours, 17 minutes. B

"THE CHORUS (LES CHORISTES)": A resoundingly nice movie about a teacher (Gerard Jugnot) who brings a little light, in the form of music, into a school for orphans and juvenile delinquents in rural France in 1949. He takes his unruly class and turns it into a chorus of sweet songbirds. It all happens more easily than we might expect, and there is, of course, a young musical genius in their midst (Jean-Baptiste Maunier). But Jugnot is a warm and winning presence, and the movie's sweet sentiment goes down easily. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some language/sexual references, violence.) 1 hour, 36 minutes. B

"ELEKTRA": Jennifer Garner plays Elektra, last seen in "Daredevil," whose death in that movie has been resolved by casting Terence Stamp as a blind mystic capable of rolling back time. She's a contract killer now, with no superpowers other than dead-on knife-throwing skills and the ability to wear red leather without looking silly. Like a lot of comic-book mythology, the story's influences seem slightly biblical, centering around the search for a chosen child — and attempts by an evil crime syndicate to steal the child, or destroy it. — B. Newman. (PG-13: action violence, some profanity.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. B

"FINDING NEVERLAND": Supposedly about how Scottish playwright J.M. Barrie came to write his beloved 1904 play "Peter Pan." But don't expect realism from this fanciful film starring Johnny Depp as Barrie and Kate Winslet as the widow, with three unruly sons, who supposedly inspired the story. — M. Pols. (PG: mild thematic elements, brief language.) 1 hour, 41 minutes. B

"HIDE AND SEEK": In this thriller, a little girl (Dakota Fanning) who has been traumatized by her mother's suicide acquires an imaginary friend named Charlie. At least her dad (Robert De Niro) assumes he's imaginary, until nasty things start happening in the house (household pets, look out!). The script does keep us

OPENING TODAY

"BOOGYMAN" (PG-13)

A horror movie about a young man (Barry Watson) who returns to his childhood home to confront the visions that have haunted him all his life.

"BORN INTO BROTHELS" (R)

A documentary about the children of prostitutes in Calcutta's red-light

district. One of five contenders for this year's best documentary Oscar.

"THE WEDDING DATE" (PG-13)

Debra Messing plays a single woman who hires a dashing male escort after she learns that her ex-fiance will be at her sister's wedding.

guessing about Charlie's identity, but the payoff is so sick and sad, there's not much thrill in it. As for De Niro, what a sellout. — M. Pols. (R: frightening sequences, violence.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. C-

"HOTEL RWANDA": A story so powerful and interesting that flaws in the storytelling don't much matter. Don Cheadle stars as real-life hero Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager in the capital of Rwanda. He's made a career out of being obsequious, but when ethnic violence breaks out and Hutus begin massacring Tutsis, he must make a stand. Through quiet intelligence and his own willingness to be humble, he saves more than 1,200 people. An Oscar-worthy performance by Cheadle. — M. Pols. (PG-13: violence, disturbing images and brief, strong language.) 2 hours, 1 minute. A-

"HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS": Set in the twilight of the Tang Dynasty, this feast of blood and passion is a tribute to the sword and martial-arts epics of the past. Zhang Ziyi plays Mei, a blind courtesan who turns out to be a member of a shadowy squad of assassins waging a guerrilla insurgency against the corrupt government. She is pursued by two government deputies, and the chase turns into a love triangle. Realism is as irrelevant here as it would be in an Italian opera. — A.O. Scott. (PG-13: violence, mild sexuality, in Mandarin with English subtitles.) 1 hour, 49 minutes. B

"THE INCREDIBLES": Blessed with that reliable Pixar blend of intelligence, wit and beautiful craftsmanship, a tale of superheroes forced into retirement but still possessed of an urge to save the world. Our hero Mr. Incredible (voiced by Craig T. Nelson) is led into a trap by an old enemy and must be saved by his wife, the former Elastigirl (Holly Hunter, almost as delightful as Ellen DeGeneres in "Finding Nemo") and his offspring. Stylistically enticing and good fun, but there may be too much violence for very young children. — M. Pols. (PG: action violence.) 1 hour, 55 minutes. B+

"IN GOOD COMPANY": A drama/comedy from director Paul Weitz about an upstart yuppie (Topher Grace) supplanting an experienced 53-year-old (Dennis Quaid) after a corporate merger. Weitz tends to fall back on cheap humor and sitcom situations (the subplot involving Grace's character dating Quaid's daughter, played by Scarlett Johansson, is unnecessary). But he's onto something with his portrayal of the corporate world as both cutthroat and bumbling. Grace is particularly endearing. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some sexual content, drug references.) 1 hour, 49 minutes. B

"KINSEY": While this bio-pic does cover the basic points of famous '40s and '50s sex researcher Alfred Kinsey's life, its true focus is his work and drive to shine a light into the dark corners of American sexuality. With Laura Linney as his spunky wife, Mac. Directed by Bill Condon ("Gods and Monsters"). — M. Pols. (R: pervasive sexual content, including graphic images and descriptions.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. B

"LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS":

As Lemony might say, this big-screen adaptation of his accounts of the miseries of the unfortunate Baudelaire orphans is fair-to-middling, which means "moderately good; passable." Jim Carrey makes a suitably creepy Count Olaf, but there's too much Carrey in his Count. The orphans are divinely cast, and director Brad Silberling uses the youngest, Sunny, for fine comic effect. This one ought to work for kids, but for adults who aren't into the books, the unfortunate events start to get a little repetitive. — M. Pols. (PG: thematic elements, scary situations and brief language.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. B-

"THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU":

American auteur Wes Anderson's spoof of a Jacques Cousteau-style underwater explorer, Steve Zissou (Bill Murray). Though it is visually fantastic and has a great cast, including Cate Blanchett, Owen Wilson, Willem Dafoe and Anjelica Huston, the film goes nowhere, is emotionally inert, and the laughs are few and far between. — M. Pols. (R: language, some drug use, violence and partial nudity.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. C-

"A LOVE SONG FOR BOBBY LONG":

A God-awful weepy set in a lushly photographed New Orleans. Scarlett Johansson plays a teenager who comes home for the funeral of her estranged, drug-addicted mother and ends up rooming with two of Mom's friends, sexy but scruffy writer Lawson Pines (Gabriel Macht) and his alcoholic former professor, Bobby Long (John Travolta). Travolta tries unsuccessfully to channel William Faulkner and Truman Capote, and the ensuing ham-bone performance is grotesquely wrong. — M. Pols. (R: language, including some sexual references.) 1 hour, 59 minutes. D+

"MEET THE FOCKERS": This sequel to "Meet the Parents" has a gag reflex that milks every bodily secretion for laughs. That it often gets them is a tribute to the cast, headed by Robert De Niro (as Jack Byrnes, father of the prospective bride), Dustin Hoffman and Barbra Streisand (as Bernie and Roz Focker). Jack insists on driving everyone to meet the future in-laws, the Fockers, in Florida aboard an RV. Along for the ride are Greg Focker (Ben Stiller), Jack's daughter Pam (Teri Polo), his wife, Dina (Blythe Danner), and their grandson. When the in-laws-to-be meet, the movie's vast stockpile of stick gets going. — B. Newman. (PG-13: crude and sexual humor, profanity, a brief drug reference.) 1 hour, 54 minutes. C+

"MILLION DOLLAR BABY": Clint Eastwood directs and stars in the story of an ambitious boxer, Maggie (Hilary Swank), and her crusty but adored trainer, Frankie (Eastwood). The picture is very good, mostly for the interesting twist it takes midway, but it's over-hyped and laced with trite elements, including the voice-over narration of Morgan Freeman, who plays Frankie's only friend and right-hand man. — M. Pols. (PG-13: violence, some disturbing images, thematic material and language.) 2 hours, 12 minutes. B+

See REVIEWS, Page C4

WEDNESDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Movies for Friday February 4

Alameda County

Alameda 1 and 2
1000 Broadway, Berkeley 510-777-3456
The Big Lebowski (R) 12
Born Into Brothels (R) 2, 5, 8
The Wedding Date (R) 7, 9, 45

Alameda Albany
1000 Broadway, Berkeley 510-777-3456
The Wedding Date (R) 7, 9, 45
The Merchant of Venice (R) 1, 3, 45, 6, 45

Alameda Bay Street 16
1000 Broadway, Berkeley 510-457-4262
The Wedding Date (R) 11:55, 2:10, 4:45, 7:05, 9:30

Alameda Precinct 13
11:50, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10
The Wedding Date (R) 12:05, 5:05, 7:35, 10:10
The Wedding Date (R) 12:10, 2:10, 5:15, 8:15, 11:20
The Wedding Date (R) 12:15, 3:45, 6:25, 9:05

Alameda 10
11:20, 2:55, 5:25, 7:50, 10:10
The Wedding Date (R) 12:20, 2:20, 5:20, 8:10, 11:05
The Wedding Date (R) 1:30, 4:10, 7:05, 9:30

Alameda Good Company
11:25, 2, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45
The Wedding Date (R) 12:25
The Wedding Date (R) 12:25, 2:25, 5:25, 8:25, 11:25

Alameda The Fockers
12, 2:35, 5:35, 8:15, 10:50
The Wedding Date (R) 12:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30, 11:30
The Wedding Date (R) 12:35, 2:35, 5:35, 8:35, 11:35
The Wedding Date (R) 12:40, 2:40, 5:40, 8:40, 11:40

Alameda Flying Daggers
1:10, 3:45, 6:45, 9:15
The Wedding Date (R) 12:45, 2:45, 5:45, 8:45, 11:45
The Wedding Date (R) 12:50, 2:50, 5:50, 8:50, 11:50

Alameda California Theatre
11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
The Wedding Date (R) 12:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
The Wedding Date (R) 12:05, 2:05, 5:05, 8:05, 11:05
The Wedding Date (R) 12:10, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 11:10

Alameda Space & Science Center
11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
The Wedding Date (R) 12:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
The Wedding Date (R) 12:05, 2:05, 5:05, 8:05, 11:05
The Wedding Date (R) 12:10, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 11:10

Alameda Wood 3
11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
The Wedding Date (R) 12:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
The Wedding Date (R) 12:05, 2:05, 5:05, 8:05, 11:05
The Wedding Date (R) 12:10, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 11:10

Alameda Renaissance Grand Lake
11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
The Wedding Date (R) 12:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
The Wedding Date (R) 12:05, 2:05, 5:05, 8:05, 11:05
The Wedding Date (R) 12:10, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 11:10

Alameda Good Company
11:25, 2, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45
The Wedding Date (R) 12:25
The Wedding Date (R) 12:25, 2:25, 5:25, 8:25, 11:25
The Wedding Date (R) 12:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30, 11:30

Alameda Renaissance Oaks Theatre
11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
The Wedding Date (R) 12:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
The Wedding Date (R) 12:05, 2:05, 5:05, 8:05, 11:05
The Wedding Date (R) 12:10, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 11:10

Alameda Parkway Speakeasy Theatre
11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
The Wedding Date (R) 12:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
The Wedding Date (R) 12:05, 2:05, 5:05, 8:05, 11:05
The Wedding Date (R) 12:10, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 11:10

Alameda Woodmont Theatre
11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
The Wedding Date (R) 12:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
The Wedding Date (R) 12:05, 2:05, 5:05, 8:05, 11:05
The Wedding Date (R) 12:10, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 11:10

Alameda Finding Neverland (PG) 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 9:35
Alameda Hotel Rwanda (PG) 1, 3, 45, 6, 45, 9, 25
Alameda Sideways (R) 1:15, 4, 7, 9, 45

Alameda Regal Jack London
100 Washington, Oakland 510-433-1320
Alameda Alone in the Dark (R) 5:10
Alameda Are we There Yet? (PG) 12:05, 2:25, 4:50, 7:10, 9:25
Alameda Assault on Precinct 13 (R) 11:50, 2:25, 7:35, 10:20
Alameda The Aviator (PG-13) 12, 4, 8
Alameda Boogeyman (PG-13) 12:50, 3:05, 5:25, 7:45, 10:10
Alameda Coach Carter (PG-13) 12:45, 3:45, 7, 10
Alameda Hide and Seek (R) 12:10, 2:35, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15
Alameda Meet the Fockers (PG-13) 7:15, 9:55
Alameda Million Dollar Baby (PG-13) 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05
Alameda Racing Stripes (PG) 11:55, 2:15, 4:40
Alameda The Wedding Date (PG-13) 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:20, 9:35

Alameda Shattuck Cinemas
2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-777-3456
Alameda Bad Education (NC-17) 2:10, 4:45, 7:30, 10, 10
Alameda Being Julia (R) 1:40, 4:30, 6:55, 9:20
Alameda Boogeyman (PG-13) 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
Alameda Closer (R) 8:40
Alameda Hotel Rwanda (PG-13) 1:15, 4:10, 7, 9, 45
Alameda The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou (R) 1:45, 4:25, 7:05
Alameda The Motorcycle Diaries (R) 1:10, 4, 6, 40, 9, 25
Alameda Ray (PG-13) 2, 5:15, 8:30
Alameda The Sea Inside (PG-13) 1:25, 4:05, 6:50, 9:30
Alameda Sideways (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 9:55
Alameda The Wedding Date (PG-13) 1, 3:05, 5:10, 7:20, 9:35

Alameda United Artists Berkeley 7
2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-0193
Alameda Alone in the Dark (R) 12:45, 3:10, 5:30, 7:45, 10:15
Alameda Are we There Yet? (PG) 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:50
Alameda Assault on Precinct 13 (R) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 8, 10:30
Alameda The Aviator (PG-13) 11:15, 2:45, 6:15, 9:45
Alameda Coach Carter (PG-13) 1, 4, 7, 10
Alameda Hide and Seek (R) 12:30, 3, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45
Alameda Racing Stripes (PG) 11:30, 2, 4:30, 7:05, 9:30
Alameda Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (PG) 1:15, 4:15
Alameda Ocean's Twelve (PG-13) 1, 4:10, 7:15, 10:10
Alameda Ray (PG-13) 12:30, 4:30, 8, 10
Alameda A Very Long Engagement (R) 7, 10
Alameda The Wedding Date (PG-13) 12:30, 2:40, 5, 7:30, 9:45

Alameda Central Contra Costa
Alameda Renaissance Orinda Theatre
4 Orinda Theatre Sq., Orinda 925-254-0900
Alameda ein Good Company (PG-13) 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45
Alameda The Incredibles (PG) 12
Alameda Million Dollar Baby (PG-13) 1, 4, 7, 9, 40
Alameda Sideways (R) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:45

Alameda Renaissance Grand Lake
3510 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette 925-283-7957
Alameda Hotel Rwanda (PG-13) 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30
Alameda Rheem All Stadium 4
350 Park St., Moraga 925-888-3411
Alameda The Aviator (PG-13) 5, 8:15

Alameda Finding Neverland (PG) 5, 7:25, 9, 45
Alameda Hide and Seek (R) 5:10, 7:20, 9, 40
Alameda The Wedding Date (PG-13) 5:05, 7:30, 9:35

Alameda West Contra Costa
Alameda Century 16 Hilltop
3200 Klose Way, Richmond 510-758-2345
Alameda Alone in the Dark (R) 9:30
Alameda Are we There Yet? (PG) 11:45, 12:55, 2, 3:15, 5:30, 7:40, 9:55
Alameda Assault on Precinct 13 (R) 11:40, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
Alameda The Aviator (PG-13) 12:50, 4:25, 8:15
Alameda Boogeyman (PG-13) 11:30, 12:15, 1, 1:40, 2:25, 3:10, 3:50, 4:35, 5:20, 6, 6:45, 7:30, 8:10, 8:55
Alameda Coach Carter (PG-13) 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 9:45
Alameda Finding Neverland (PG) 11:55, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:35
Alameda Hide and Seek (R) 12:40, 3:05, 4:30, 5:25, 7, 7:55, 9:25, 10:15
Alameda Hotel Rwanda (PG-13) 11:35, 2:15, 4:55, 7:35, 10:20
Alameda Meet the Fockers (PG-13) 12, 2:30, 5, 7:35, 10:10
Alameda Million Dollar Baby (PG-13) 1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 10, 10
Alameda Racing Stripes (PG) 11:50, 2:20, 4:40, 7:05
Alameda Sideways (R) 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05
Alameda The Wedding Date (PG-13) 11:30, 1:35, 3:45, 5:50, 8, 10:10

Alameda San Francisco
Alameda AMC Van Ness 14
1000 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco 415-822-4262
Alameda Alone in the Dark (R) 12:10, 2:20, 4:50, 10:20
Alameda Are we There Yet? (PG) 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:25, 10:15
Alameda Assault on Precinct 13 (R) 11:40, 2, 4:30, 7, 10:25
Alameda The Aviator (PG-13) 12, 3:30, 7, 10
Alameda Boogeyman (PG-13) 1:10, 3:20, 5:45, 7:30, 8:15, 9:15, 9:55
Alameda Closer (R) 12:15, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05
Alameda Coach Carter (PG-13) 1, 4:05, 7:10, 10:10
Alameda Hide and Seek (R) 12:30, 3, 5:30, 8, 9:50
Alameda In Good Company (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40
Alameda The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou (R) 11:50, 2:30, 5:05, 7:50, 10:30
Alameda Meet the Fockers (PG-13) 1:30, 3:10, 6:45, 10:30
Alameda Million Dollar Baby (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 9:45
Alameda Racing Stripes (PG) 11:30, 1:45, 4:20, 6:50
Alameda The Wedding Date (PG-13) 12:45, 3:10, 5:20, 7:45, 9:30

Alameda AMC Kabuki 8
1881 Post Street, San Francisco 415-822-4262
Alameda Are we There Yet? (PG) 2:15, 5, 7:30, 9:50
Alameda The Aviator (PG-13) 1:15, 4:45, 8:30
Alameda Boogeyman (PG-13) 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 10:20
Alameda Coach Carter (PG-13) 1:45, 4:50, 8:15
Alameda Hide and Seek (R) 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
Alameda Hotel Rwanda (PG-13) 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
Alameda Meet the Fockers (PG-13) 1:20, 4:05, 7, 10
Alameda The

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

SMOOTH MOVE By DERRICK NIEDERMAN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS
1 Panhandle site
7 In ____ rush
11 Two-wheeler
15 Farm mother
18 Defendants' protests
20 Health resorts
22 Call ____ day
23 Chain Weinmann, for one
24 Orbu
25 Shook hands, say
26 Capital of Jamaica [black]
28 Beloved British figure [black]
29 District of Columbia
30 Platoon VIP
33 Noted Twain paragon [black]
35 N.Y.C. subway
36 Chloe's love, in myth
38 Military pilots
40 Fortress
43 April, May and June, to Daisy Duck
44 Misdirect, maybe
45 Suffix with ____ Across
46 Long time
47 Yellowish shade

DOWN
1 Relative of a chisel
2 Circular greeting
3 Year abroad
4 Kind of feeling
5 Given name among old Chinese leaders
6 Old Dodgers manager called "Smoky"
7 Enzyme suffix
8 Spring festival honoree
9 Geriatric target
10 Unliveness
11 One of the three B's
12 Annoyed
13 John of radio's "Information, Please!"
14 Tuck in
15 Follower of samurai
16 Studios
17 "The Piano Lesson" painter
19 Small runway craft, for short
21 Walk shakily
27 First World Series color broadcaster, 1955
29 Result of black's move from the upper-left board to the lower-right board
30 Proved pleasing
31 Emergency safeguard
32 Yelled
34 Beginner
37 Devout
39 R & B singer Brian Auger
41 Picked up the check
42 Some corporal punishment
43 Early morning hour
49 Chance
51 Durham sch
53 Fun mace
54 Prevaricate

56 Wray of "King Kong"
57 Kind of chair
58 Link aggregation, in computing
60 "Proper" speech
61 Expression of numerical certainty
62 Food
64 Box office draws
65 Smoothies
67 Butcher's offering
69 I, in Berlin
70 Poor, filmwise
72 Medicine approval
73 Wall Street deal, in brief
74 Charged particle
76 Sign of spring
78 ____ job
80 United and Allied, e.g.
81 I's typically made of leather or plush
82 Responsibilities
83 Trails
84 N.B.A.'s Unseld
85 Darts, e.g.
87 Old phone user
89 Dub "Sir"
90 Singer Leon
92 Mild-mannered
94 Skin-related
95 Online purchase facilitator
97 Sheds
100 Toward dawn
104 Mad, and Lex
105 Gilt
107 Cheating
109 "Cheers" role
110 Like a double-decker checker
112 Celtic Neptune
113 Afore
114 ____ job

Reviews

FROM PAGE C3

"NATIONAL TREASURE": Mega-mach producer Jerry Bruckheimer takes a single high-concept idea — a secret treasure map printed on the back of the Declaration of Independence — and attempts to reverse-engineer it into an Indiana Jones movie. The hero is Benjamin Franklin Gates (Nicolas Cage), Jon Voight plays Ben's befuddled father, and Harvey Keitel is the inevitable cop, willing to do whatever it takes in pursuit of the purloined parchment. — B. Newman. (PG: action violence, some scary images.) 2 hour, 5 minutes. C+

"THE MERCHANT OF VENICE": Jeremy Irons, Al Pacino and Joseph Fiennes star in this better-than-average Shakespeare retelling. Watching the film is like seeing a gallery of Renaissance paintings come to life, and while the effect is occasionally contrived, it mostly deepens the wonder and strangeness of the play. Judiciously trimmed to manageable length, this "Merchant" is, for the most part, faithful in letter and spirit to its source material. — A.O. Scott. (R: some nudity.) 2 hour, 7 minutes. B+

"OCEAN'S TWELVE": George Clooney's ultracut gang of thieves (Julia Roberts makes an even dozen) is back for another fun caper, this time in gorgeous European settings (Amsterdam, Paris, Rome), but their cuteness seems to have gone to their heads. They've turned into a true Rat Pack, celebrities who just want to have fun making movies together, no matter how thin the plot or how weak the devices they use are (a meta-gag involving Roberts is just embarrassingly unimaginative). With Steven Soderbergh at the helm, the film is certainly easy on the eyes, but it's instantly forgettable. — M. Pols. (PG-13: language.) 2 hours, 10 minutes. C

"THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA": Tens of thousands of candles flicker throughout lavish Baroque sets. The Phantom glowers dramatically. Every bosom in sight heaves. Star-crossed lovers declare, in song, their undying devotion. There are red roses everywhere. The only thing missing is Mariah Carey, who would be right at home in this gaudy, senseless interpretation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's popular stage musical, directed by Joel Schumacher and starring the lovely young Emmy Rossum and Gerard Butler as a whiny, indecisive Phantom. — M. Pols. (PG-13: brief violent images.) 2 hours, 23 minutes. C-

"THE POLAR EXPRESS": The buzz was that Robert Zemeckis' movie was going to change the face of moviemaking with its high-tech innovations. But to fans of Chris Van All-

sburg's 29-page, heavily illustrated book, the bigger question was whether the film could do justice to this beloved children's holiday tale. The answer: yes! Wonderously, the source material has been broadened with great respect and tenderness. Tom Hanks served as the source for many animated roles. — M. Pols. (G) 1 hour, 36 minutes. B+

"RACING STRIPES": Whereas the talking little piggy of "Babe" wanted to be a sheep-herding dog, the talking baby zebra of "Racing Stripes" wants to be a racehorse. And the farmer's daughter, Channing (Hayden Panettiere), wants to be a jockey. Together they sneak into the prestigious Kentucky Open, where Stripes competes against a spoiled thoroughbred. A menagerie of characters are voiced by such stars as Whoopi Goldberg, Dustin Hoffman and Frankie Muniz. — C. Lemire. (PG: crude humor, some language.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. C

"RAY": Jamie Foxx channels the late, great Ray Charles in this fascinating bio-pic that doesn't skim over the rough spots in the musician's past, including heroin addiction and much womanizing. But the movie suffers from the conundrum of being both too shallow and too long. — M. Pols. (R: a depiction of drug addiction, sexuality, some thematic elements.) 2 hours, 32 minutes. B-

"SIDEWAYS": Paul Giamatti and Thomas Haden Church are two very different middle-aged men on a road trip through the Santa Barbara wine country in this just-about-perfect movie from director Alexander Payne ("Election," "About Schmidt"). Wickedly funny, with some of the best slapstick this year, but poignant, too. — M. Pols. (R: language, some strong sexual content, nudity.) 2 hours, 4 minutes. A

"VERA DRAKE": Vera (Imelda Staunton) is the cheeriest, most helpful gal in her dingy London neighborhood, circa 1950. She's also a back-

alley abortionist, "helping out" hundreds of poor women. Director Mike Leigh handles this incendiary topic with a bare-bones economy that goes straight to the heart of the legal and moral questions, without being overt or strident. The ensemble cast, particularly Staunton, is superb. — M. Pols. (R: adult themes.) 2 hours, 5 minutes. A-

"A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT": Audrey Tautou stars in this odd but charming and stylish movie. The story begins in 1919, two years after Manech's court-martial and death sentence for intentionally wounding himself on the front, then disappearing. The official word is that he's dead. But the smart and superstitious Mathilde (Tautou) is not convinced. She engages the help of an exuberant private detective, and together they begin inching toward the truth. — C. Chocano. (R: graphic violence, some sexuality and nudity; in French with English subtitles.) 2 hours, 13 minutes. B

"WHAT THE \$#! DO WE KNOW?": Marlee Matlin stars in this lively exploration of quantum physics that mixes talking-head observations, giddy ani-

mation and a mini-drama about a photographer (Marlee Matlin) dealing with a failed love life. — R. Dennerstein. (NR) 1 hour, 48 minutes. B

"WHITE NOISE": Michael Keaton is the hero of this inane ghost story. While grieving over the death of his wife, a stranger tells him he receives communications from the dead — blurry, indistinct messages that come to him over the radio or computer. The film throws in a lot of excess baggage — a serial killer, a string of missing women, clues to a mystery, confused family dynamics — all of which obscures anything that could have been scary or interesting. — C. Hewitt. (PG-13: language, violence.) 1 hour, 50 minutes. D-

"THE WOODSMAN": Kevin Bacon is constrained and bottled-up as a child molester trying to reintegrate into society. But this first-time feature by Nicole Kassell doesn't go the distance with its controversial material. With Bacon's wife, Kyra Sedgwick, as the blue-collar love interest. — B. Strauss. (R: sex, nudity, language, violence, children in jeopardy.) 1 hour, 27 minutes. C+

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AGES 8-18

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For more information call:
JUDY WIESEN
STUDENT CAMP & TRIP ADVISOR
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Events

STAGE

ACTRESS ENSEMBLE OF BERKELEY — "Seduced" by Sam Shepard, through Feb. 19, Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m., Feb. 13, 2 p.m.; Feb. 17, 8 p.m. An eccentric billionaire flirts with madness as he hears the end of his life. \$10. Live Oak Theatre 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-5999 or www.aetbberkeley.org

WISDOM STAGE — "The Wisdom of Mary Orr," Feb. 11 through Feb. 20, Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 p.m., and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. Tale of an ingenious understudy gone bad. \$15 general; \$10 students, seniors and persons with disabilities. 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-5576

THEATRE COMPANY — "Dublin Carol" by Conor McPherson, through Mar. 6, Wednesday through Friday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. The West Coast premiere of McPherson's newest play. Set in the office of an Irish undertaker on Christmas Eve, the play tells a tale that is both sad and humorous about a man whose life is destroyed by alcoholism who is offered a last chance for redemption. \$36 to \$45. Aurora Theatre 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-8222 or www.auroratheatre.com

BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE — Workshop Performances for "Bridge and Tunnel" by Sarah Jones, through Feb. 20, Feb. 12 and Feb. 17 through Feb. 20, 8 p.m.; Feb. 13 and Feb. 20, 2 p.m., and 8 p.m.; Feb. 5, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. A series of workshop performances for Jones' one-woman show. Members are encouraged to give feedback to help develop and refine the piece in preparation for its appearance on Broadway. The show explores what the American dream means to 14 characters from 14 different cultures living in New York City, including a Jewish grandmother, an Irish accountant, Chinese mother whose daughter is a lesbian, young rapper, hip-hop rapper and migrant worker confined to a wheelchair. On Thursday, Feb. 27, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 p.m., Wednesday, 7 p.m., Saturday, 2 p.m., and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. The world premiere of Jones' provocative play in contemporary Paris. The play, which a collage of scenes, song, dance, takes a raucous and erotic look at French attempts to reconcile their traditions with modern multiculturalism. In the Roda Theatre. \$10 to \$25.

"Date" Feb. 6, Noon to 5 p.m. Participants will receive a discounted matinee "Date de la Nuit" while their children ages 2 to 11 enjoy five hours of supervised activities at the Berkeley MCA, 2001 Alston Way. Reservations required. \$20 per child for a \$25 discounted adult theater ticket.

BERKELEY RICHMOND JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER — "The Women," Feb. 12-13, Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. An original play for all celebrating the anniversary of 50 years of Jewish life in America. The play features vaudeville, masks, puppets, song, dance, tales, acrobatics and more. \$22 to \$35. (415) 285-8080 or www.berjcc.org 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0327 or www.berjcc.org

THE COSTA CIVIC THEATRE — "Mousetrap" by Agatha Christie, through Feb. 19, Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Murder mystery set in an English manor house during a snowstorm. \$15 general; \$10 ages 16 and under. 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. 510-524-9132 or www.cctc.org

EIGHTH STREET STUDIOS — "The Serpent" by Jean Claude Van Itallie, through Feb. 19, Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Ragged Wing Ensemble employs movement, masks and puppetry in play using Garden of Eden myth to explore the loss of innocence in contemporary American culture. \$10 to \$20. www.raggedwing.org 2525 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-527-8119

IMPACT THEATRE — "Othello," Feb. 11 through Mar. 19, Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. This new version of Shakespeare's classic features Othello as a dark-skinned African-American lesbian in a position of power in the American military, and Iago as a light-skinned African-American ensign. \$15 general; \$10 students and seniors; pay what you can on Thursdays. La Val's Subterranean Theatre 1834 Euclid St., Berkeley. 510-484-4468 or www.impacttheatre.com

LANEY COLLEGE THEATRE — "Knockout" Feb. 11-Feb. 12, 8 p.m. Multimedia performance project featuring theater, dance, song, video and beat boxing by an ensemble cast of actors from Oakland and San Francisco. A benefit for the Breast Cancer Fund. (415) 281-0547 or www.hankmages.com/knockers.html 900 Fallon St., Oakland

THEATREFIRST — "Frontiers Americanas" by Guillermo Verdecchia, closing Feb. 13, Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. U.S. premiere of solo performance features Bay Area actor and comedian Ben Ortega and tells the story of a man's journey from his adoptive Canada to his native Argentina between continents, across countries and time and within communities. \$18 to \$22 general; \$15 to \$19 seniors and students; \$9 to \$11 for seniors under 25. Lissner Hall Theatre, Mills College 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-436-5085 or www.theatrefirst.com

POPULAR MUSIC

924 GILMAN ST. — All ages welcome. Midnight Laserbeam, Casiotone for the Painfully Alone, Mochipet, Ned, Feb. 4. Replicator, Cold War, Raking Bombs, Archeopteryx, Feb. 5. Monster Squad, Try Failing, Whiskey Sunday, Giant Haystacks, The Abuse, Feb. 11.

Iron Lung, Lords of Light, Takara, Laudanum, Feb. 12. \$5 unless otherwise noted. Shows start at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9926 or www.924gilman.org

ALBATROSS PUB — Whiskey Brothers, Oldtime and Bluegrass music. First, third and fifth Wednesdays of every month. Free. Pickpocket Ensemble, Feb. 12. \$3. Shows begin Wednesday, 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473 or www.albatrosspub.com

BECKETT'S IRISH PUB — Kensalla, Feb. 3 and Feb. 5. "Rock 'n' Roll with Nicola," Feb. 4. Free. Shows at 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790 or www.beckettsirishpub.com

BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH — "Monday Night All Star Jam" with The Steve Gannon Band and Mz. Dee, Mondays. \$4. "Acoustic Wednesday" with Mikie Lee Prasad and guests, 10 p.m. Free. Ages 18 and older.

Subliminal Twinkies, The Loyalists, Sizemix, TrixB'nix, Feb. 4, \$7. Sol Rebelz, Psychokinetics, The Atlik, Feb. 5, \$8 to \$10.

Rad Audio with A-Typical DJ, DJ Team Awesome, Angel of Thorns, Feb. 9, 9 p.m. \$5.

Nagg, The Look, The Sort Out, Ride the Blinds, Feb. 11, 9 p.m. \$5 to \$7. Forthmornning, Sleep in Fame, Omisssa, Displace, Feb. 12, 9 p.m. \$8 to \$10. Dan K. Harvest, Feb. 13, \$5 to \$7.

For ages 18 and older. Music begins at 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-0886 or www.blakesontelegraph.com

CAL PERFORMANCES — Kodo, Feb. 4 through Feb. 6, Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. Japanese drumming with performers clad in sweatbands and loincloths. \$24-\$46. "Directions in Music: Our Times," Feb. 8, 8 p.m. Featuring contemporary jazz guests Herbie Hancock, Michael Brecker and Roy Hargrove. \$30-\$62.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Bancroft Way at Telegraph Avenue. 510-642-9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

CLUB OASIS — Beatsauce Crew, Big G. Ales-One, Feb. 12, 10 p.m. \$10. 135 12 St., Oakland. 510-763-0404

DOWN HOME MUSIC STORE — Bay Area Blues Society, Feb. 12, 2 p.m. A concert to kick off the 2005 West Coast Hall of Fame and Awards Show in celebration of Black History Month. Free. 10341 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-252-2129

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BERKELEY — "Womansong Circle," Ongoing. First Friday of the month, 6:45 p.m. Women are welcome to join voices in community singing of songs of joy, peace, justice and healing, led by singer Betsy Rose. Songs include chants, folk songs and sacred songs. Potluck snacks at 6:45 p.m.; music from 7:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. \$8. 510-525-7082 or www.betsyrosemusic.org First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

FREIGHT AND SALVAGE — Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, Feb. 3 through Feb. 4, \$29.50 to \$30.50. Davka, Feb. 5, \$17.50 to \$18.50. Black Irish Band, Feb. 6, \$17.50 to \$18.50.

Martyn Joseph, Feb. 8, \$16.50 to \$17.50. "San Francisco Bluegrass and Old-Time Festival's Bluegrass Buffet" Feb. 9. Featuring Highway One, Jeanie and Chuck's Country Roundup, Alhambra Valley Band, High Country. \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Berkeley High School Jazz Ensemble, Feb. 10, \$16.50 to \$17.50. Tracy Grammer, Feb. 11, \$16.50 to \$17.50. Chokkasian Armenian Concert Ensemble, Feb. 12, \$18.50 to \$19.50.

Hurricane Sam Rudin, Feb. 13, \$16.50 to \$17.50. Music starts at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761 or www.freightandsalvage.org

HEAR MUSIC — Daria, Feb. 5, 1 p.m. Free. 1809 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-204-9595

JAZZSCHOOL — David K. Mathews Trio, Feb. 5. Steven Bernstein, Feb. 5 and Feb. 12. "An Eclectic Mind Creates Eclectic Music," Feb. 13, 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. A workshop with Steven Bernstein. \$30 to \$45.

\$12 to \$18 unless otherwise noted. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 4:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.



THE OAKLAND MUSEUM, 1001 Oak St. in Oakland, presents "Dancin' in the Street: The Influence of Black Music of the Vietnam Era" today from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. as part of Black History Month. Above are Mavis Staple and the Staple Singers at the 1972 Wattstax concert in Los Angeles.

2087 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-845-5373 or www.jazzschool.com

KIMBALLS EAST — Confunkshun, Feb. 11 through Feb. 13, \$30. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 6005 Shellmound St., Emeryville. 510-762-2277 or www.kimballs.com

LA PENA CULTURAL CENTER — Rhythm Village, Feb. 4, 8 p.m. High-energy West African music and dance. Bring a drum or reserve one to join in the playing. (415) 453-3285. \$12 to \$14.

La Nina Flamenca Senes, Feb. 5, 8 p.m. World-class Flamenco music and dance featuring a guest artist from Spain. \$18 to \$20. "Domingo de Rumba," Feb. 6, 3:30 p.m. This performance is at The Cafi. Free.

Alexander Tsygankov and Inna Shevchenko, Feb. 10, 8 p.m. \$15 to \$20. De Rompe y Raja, Feb. 11, 8:30 p.m. \$10.

"Love Fest 2005," Feb. 12, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. An alternative celebration of love, hosted by Aya de Leon. \$10 to \$12.

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapena.org

MINGLES MARTINI AND CHAMPAGNE LOUNGE — Chocolate City, Ongoing. Thursday, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Steppin' lessons, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Dynamic Dyson and his Band, Friday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

370 Embarcadero West, Jack London Square, Oakland. 510-835-3900 or www.minglesoakland.com

PARAMOUNT THEATRE — The Whispers and Howard Hewitt, Feb. 4, 8 p.m. \$42.50 to \$75. Jill Scott, Martin Luther, Feb. 10 through Feb. 11, 8 p.m. \$40 to \$75.50.

Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 510-465-6400, (415) 421-8497 or www.paramounttheatre.com or www.ticketmaster.com

THE STARRY PLOUGH PUB — The Starry Irish Music Session led by Shay Black, Ongoing. Sundays, 8 p.m. Sliding scale.

Moore Brothers, Alela, Marlee, Feb. 4, \$6. "San Francisco Bluegrass and Old-Time Festival," Feb. 5. Featuring performances by Shiffless Rounders, Flat Mountain Girls, Amy and Karen. \$10. "Erotic Slami" Feb. 9, 8:30 p.m. \$5 to \$7.

Humaneze, The Famous, Feb. 10, \$5. Tempest, Druid Sister's Tea Party, Feb. 11, \$12. "Bloody Valentine Bash," Feb. 12. Featuring Ramona the Pest, Nellie Bib, Tara Linda and Friends, She Mob, Jen

Scaffidi, \$10. For ages 21 and over unless otherwise noted. Sunday and Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday through Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082 or www.starryploughpub.com

YOSHI'S — McCoy Tyner with Terence Blanchard, Ravi Coltrane, Charnett Moffett and Eric Harland, Feb. 1 through Feb. 6, \$22 to \$30 general; Sunday matinee: \$26 general; \$5 children; \$15 adult with one child.

El Cerrito High School Jazz Groups, Feb. 7, \$10. Mose Allison, Feb. 8-10, \$10-\$16. "Valentine's Day Celebration," Feb. 11 through Feb. 14, With Abbey Lincoln \$26 general; \$5 children, \$15 one adult and one child, or \$22 general for Sunday matinee.

Shows are Monday-Saturday, 8 and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 2 and 8 p.m., unless noted. 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200 or www.yoshis.com

CLASSICAL MUSIC

ALAMEDA EDUCATION FOUNDATION — "An Evening of Brandenburg Concertos," Feb. 12, 8 p.m. A chamber music performance of works by J.S. Bach to raise funds for the support of Alameda public schools. Performers include: mezzo-soprano and Alameda resident Frederica von Stade, Oakland East Bay Symphony conductor Michael Morgan, cellist Emil Miland and violinists Natasha Miller and Josh Cohen. \$30 general; \$25 students and seniors; \$25 for a post-concert party with the artists. Auctions by the Bay. 2700 Saratoga Ave., at Alameda Point, Alameda. 510-337-1789 or www.alamedaeducationfoundation.org

BERKELEY OPERA — CLOSING — "Il Trittico" by Giacomo Puccini, closing Feb. 6. A performance of three one-act operas: "Il Trittico," "Suor Angelica" and "Gianni Schicchi." In Italian with English surtitles. \$16 to \$40 general; \$35 seniors; \$15 youth and disabled persons; \$10 student rush on the night of the performance. Feb. 6, 2 p.m.; Feb. 7, 2:30 p.m. Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Avenue, Berkeley. (925) 798-1300, 510-841-1903 or www.berkeleyopera.org

CAL PERFORMANCES — Takacs Quartet, Feb. 6, 3 p.m. The chamber group performs a concert of string quartets by Beethoven. There is a pre-performance talk at 2 p.m. \$42. Daniel Muller-Schott, Feb. 13, 3 p.m. The German cellist, accompanied by pianist Robert Kolt, performs a program of works by Beethoven, Schumann and Schubert. \$46.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

CROWDEN MUSIC CENTER'S SUNDAYS AT FOUR CONCERT SERIES — "Chamber Music for Strings and Piano," Feb. 13, 4 p.m. Violinist Wei He, violinist Yun-Jie Liu, cellist William Chang and pianist David Gross perform Brahms and Beethoven works in family-friendly concert. \$12 general; free for children. Crowden Music Center, 1475 Rose St., Berkeley. 510-559-2941 or www.crowdenmusiccenter.org

MILLS COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT AND THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY MUSIC — Eliane Radigue, Feb. 5, 8 p.m. A performance of new electro-acoustic musical works. \$12 general; \$6 seniors

Biggi Vinkelo, Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m. The Swedish saxophone player and flautist performs solo music composed in real time and based on both European and jazz traditions. In the Ensemble Room. Free.

Anne Quellef, Feb. 11, 8 p.m. A piano recital featuring works by Scarlatti, Salie and Ravel. \$20 general; \$10 seniors.

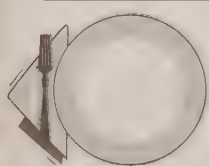
Concerts take place in the Concert Hall unless otherwise noted. Mills College, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2296

MUSIC SOURCES — "Cantatas and Sonatas of Domenico Scarlatti," Feb. 13, 5 p.m. Soprano Susan Rode Morris, baroque violinist Shira Kammien and harpsichordists Phebe Craig and Jonathan Davis. \$18 general; \$15 students and seniors. 1000 The Alameda at Marin, Berkeley. 510-528-1685.

OAKLAND YOUTH ORCHESTRA WINTER CONCERT — Feb. 6, 3 p.m. Michael Morgan and Bryan Nies conduct works by Franz von Suppe, Schubert and Grieg. \$12 general; \$8 students and seniors. Kofman Auditorium, 2200 Central Ave., Alameda. 510-832-7710 or www.oyo.org

ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — Music of the Spheres, Feb. 12, 8 p.m. The violin/cello/harp/chord trio performs works of the High Baroque period by Handel, Domenico Gabrielli, Schmelzer, Hibel, Corelli and Paul Brantley. Presented by the San Francisco Early Music Society. \$25 general; \$22 seniors. 510-528-1725 or www.sflms.org

San Francisco Chamber Orchestra "Schubertiade," Feb. 13, 3 p.m. Benjamin Simon conducts mezzo-soprano Zheng Cao and pianist Mack McCray in a performance of chamber music and songs by Schubert. Free. (415) 248-1640 or www.sfcchamberorchestra.org



The Dining Guide

Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant

300 - 29th Avenue, Oakland (510) 261-1621

Good food, friendly service, and comfortable atmosphere describe Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant. For over 30 years the restaurant has been located adjacent to the Park Street Bridge overlooking the Alameda/Oakland estuary. The "Pier" offers an extensive menu featuring fresh seafood, Angus New York steak, prime rib, pasta, teriyaki ribs, daily specials, and much more. The theme in the kitchen is "good homestyle cooking." Brunch is served on weekends from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and the popular earlybird menu is featured daily. Every table has a view of the water and there is plenty of free parking. The Pier is open 7 days a week. New business hours: Sun - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m., Fri - Sat. 9 a.m. - 11 p.m., Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner.

Sushi House

2226B South Shore Center, Alameda (510) 565-0990

When it comes to sushi, one place on the island comes to mind. Come experience why locals & out-of-towners alike flock to Sushi House. Whether you're a fan of modern or traditional Japanese cuisine, Sushi House will delight your senses with unique, award-winning sushi creations not found elsewhere on either side of the Bay. You've tried the rest. Now try the best! All seafood is delivered daily to ensure unrivaled quality & freshness. Showcasing these excellent beginnings are chef/owner James' own creations such as "Crazy Horse" - tuna, hamachi, salmon & avocado; "Crazy Monkey" - yellow tail, salmon, eel, tobiko and cucumber; & "Dynamite" - yellow tail, salmon, tuna & halibut deep fried house special sauce - spicy! Frequent Sushi House diners John & Sally Crittenden agreed that "James is a real artist & his sushi is the freshest we've ever tasted!" Sushi House is open nonstop from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday & 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays. Plenty of free parking. From an intimate date to a big celebration, Sushi House is the hip & trendy place to be in Alameda! AE MC VISA \$W

Speisekammer

2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda (510) 522-1300

Speisekammer presents Modern German Cuisine that is good for the body and soul. Sauerbraten, Wiener Schnitzel and a house recipe Bratwurst are standards. Light fare such as the Gemusestrudel (Vegetable Strudel) with Goat Cheese, Roasted Red Pepper and Spinach. Served in a Carrot Sauce) give the menu a modern (or California) twist. There is a world in the German language that has no counterpart in English: Gemütlichkeit. It connotes a combination of comfort, friendship, and the general sentiment of being completely at ease with your surroundings. Speisekammer's atmosphere is Gemütlich. Large tables and a private room make it a great place for groups. The Beer is Strictly German. The Cocktails are Distinctly American, and the wine list has some of each. Lunch is served Tues-Fri - Grilled Pannini Sandwiches and Salads are offered along with some of the more popular entrée items. Sunday Brunch is to die for! 10am-2pm. Dinner is served Tues-Sun W, \$5-\$85, AC, FB, RR

Legend: \$ rating is average dinner entrée price

AE	American Express	\$	Entrées under \$7
CB	Carte Blanche	\$	\$7-\$14
DC	Diners Club	\$	\$15-\$20
DS	Discover Card	\$	\$20+
MC	MasterCard		
VISA		FB	Full Bar
AC	All Cards accepted	RR	Reservations recommended
CA	Checks accepted	W	Wheelchair access

Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant
Seafood/Prime Rib/Steak/Lobster/Cocktail
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www.e-sushihouse.com



[illegible][illegible]

of California. Executed by Tuppish Harper, will of testator's cash account, the cashier bidden to pay the testator's cash account equivalent to the balance of payment authorized by § 2724(b) (payable at time of death) to the estate of the United States. At the Fallon emergency exit to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St., Oakland, CA all right, title and interest in and to said now held by it under and devoid of trust in the State of California and County and state described herein.

As more fully described in the attached instrument, D55-1820-016 The street address and other common information regarding the above-described property is reported to be: 2002 2006 Park St., Berkeley, CA

The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of or omissions from the foregoing common designation, if any, shown herein. Said disclaimer shall not constitute a covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, re: the accuracy of the facts, or circumstances, to pay the outstanding principal sum of \$1,000,000.00.

[illegible][illegible]

the covenant or warranty, or the right of the creditor of the holding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the proceeds of the sale of the property to the holder of the note(s) secured by the deed of Trust, with interest and costs, and the Trustee is provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the deed of Trust, and the Trustee thereon, fees, charges and expenses, and the proceeds for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the notice) may be reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The proceeds may be set forth after the date of sale. Trustor: Mageline Jane Garrett, an individual. Beneficiary: the holder of the note secured by the deed titled as Mageline C. Williams, an unmarried individual. County: Alameda County. Trustee: Town & Country Title Services, Inc. Recorded on: 04/20/2006. File #: 004200863 in book , page . Official Records in the office of the County Recorder, Alameda County, California. Date of Sale: 2/10/2005 at 2:00 PM. Place of Sale: At the Fall on ST emergency exit to the Alameda County, California, Sheriff's Office, Oakland, CA. Amount of unpaid balance and other

The undersigned, as the common assignor of real property, 1122 Delaware Street, Berkeley, CA 94702 P.O. #1: 707-208-0184. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any inaccuracy of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the Secretary within 30 days of the date of first publication of this notice of sale. The date: 7/20/2005 Town & Country Title Services, Inc.

ne, every Friday

question about the boy's future as a performer.

"My goal is not to turn out musicians," she says. "My goal is for them to enjoy music. And music is important for their learning." It's very much about discipline, she explains, noting all the children performing together in groups. "You have to listen to yourself and listen to others. You can't be early, and you can't be late. You can't be too fast or too slow."

For Tyler, concerts bring forth conflicting emotions. "Usually before it happens, I just want to get this over with," he says, "so I'm feeling all confident. And then—oh, shoot—I can't do this!" But audiences, his teacher and his mother are awed by his performances.

"I believe he's going to be a singer of some kind," says Ladd, who works a few blocks from Lincoln Elementary at the East Bay Municipal Utilities District headquarters. What kind of singer? "It would be up to him."

He likes "some of the hip-hop stuff they're doing," she says, as well as gospel; one of his favorite performers is gospel singer Kirk Franklin. Tyler and his mother attend Lily of the Valley Christian Center in Oakland, and he sometimes sings there, but not in the church choir.

Hip-hop, gospel, Chinese folk songs and opera melodies aren't even the extent of this 9-year-old's musical interests. He has worked out tunes on an electronic keyboard at home, and says his mother, he's reached the age where he's drumming on every surface around the house. "I'm going to have to buy him a set of drums," she said, with joyful resignation.

Reach Robert Taylor at 925-977-8428 or rtaylor@cctimes.com.

OM PAGE C8

Saturday afternoon he will sing a traditional folk song accompanied by a group of five musicians at the San Francisco Symphony's Chinese New Year concert.

In between concerts have news reports that delight in the counter-of-fact, cross-cultural musical talent.

There's the way Tyler tells it: "I just like singing," he says. "Then, at my first concert in 2003, in our cafeteria at school, I thought, wow, this may be my only concert. Then the Street Journal came out, and more concerts, then CNN, then more concerts. And I thought, this is one big business!"

He might even get to go to appear in a program with other non-Chinese performers who sing and play Chinese music. "I can't wait to see what kind of money they use there," he says, with an expression of determined curiosity.

Outside the rehearsal room, a group of young musicians play introduction to the piece they will sing Saturday night; comprise an orchestra of instruments plus a few.

He slumps in an orange chair in front of them, and rubs his face, but it's time to sing, he's on his calm and serious beside instructor Wan Peng Guo.

Over classrooms in the Laney College complex on this Saturday filled with youngsters learning to play Chinese instruments, Tyler is not the only cultural performer. In one group playing guitarlike instruments harmonizes a Solo Mio.

Chew responds to a



TYLER TAKES music classes at Laney College, which, as a bonus, has a banister just right for sliding down.

ance

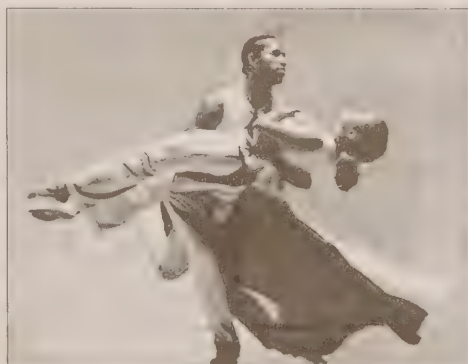
OM PAGE C8

erme Dunham and Pearl. Indeed, the current season has been inspired by the choreographers Moving and the 21st Century festival in the early '90s, which Halima, Kim Fowler and Beck Stewart produced.

Emerging choreographer got her start through events was Laura Elaine, who never forgot the synchro experienced working with other black choreographers. When the 2002 Quilt brought some of the from the festival—in Asha Jenkins, Robert and Robert Henry Johnson together again, she realized it was time to revive the so Ellis and Angela, co-director of the African American Performing Arts Coalition, de-organize anew.

Like we were picking the last festival had, and I saw it was necessary to come back to again," she says, "We'll continue that energy, connected, collaborate

the purposes of the festival and Johnson have limited participation to black choreographers, which seems a categorization than "black dance"—a phrase which African-American Zita Allen pon- far back in the 1970s. In Dance Magazine, discussed the meaning of such an amorphous term. Is it dance made by black choreographers? Is it



RECENT WORKS BY Robert Moses' Kin, among others, combine a variety of dance styles and themes of the black experience.

dance made about the black experience? Is it dance that shows African stylistic roots? Is it dance performed primarily by black dancers?

When Ailey II (the young training company for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre) performed recently at the Stanford Lively Arts series, the evening opened with a ballet-based contemporary meditation by the New York-based Israeli choreographer Igal Perry, performed authoritatively by the primarily black ensemble. Do we put that piece into the same category as Alvin Ailey's "Revelations," which was also on the program?

Although it's human nature to want to pigeonhole and neatly label, perhaps instead of thinking of "black dance" as the category—most categories have such blurry edges anyhow—it would be more useful to

think in terms of the overlaps. Much of the work of the next generation of black choreographers occurs at an intersection of genres and styles as well as subject matter. Recent works by Robert Henry Johnson, Robert Moses and Rennie Harris combine a variety of dance styles and themes of the black experience, creating a mixture of styles that connect classical ballet with Caribbean rhythms or hip-hop with modern dance technique.

Johnson, who will premiere a section from his latest work-in-progress at the festival, speaks in the ballet idiom, but relates his new piece to an almost anthropological inquiry into black cultural background.

"It's about the search for the black presence in Europe," he explains, though when you see it, "you will not get that at all,"

he adds quickly with a laugh. Johnson concedes that ballet seems like an unlikely vehicle for an investigation into black history, given how few classically ballet-trained black dancers one sees onstage, even now. He hopes, though, to address African ties to classical formalism in the completed work.

"There's going to be something for everyone—it's probably the most commercial idea of the festival," Ellis says with a laugh. "We're hoping young people might come for the hip-hop but get turned on by Alonzo King or Robert Moses. We want to build audiences for these choreographers, too."

"So many people in the community at large don't know these choreographers," she says. "They go to Ailey every year, but they don't even know the work that's being done by local choreographers like Robert Henry Johnson—and that's a shame."

Contact Mary Ellen Hunt at mehunt@criticaldance.com.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BEST SELLERS

Compiled from sales at 45 independent bookstores in Northern California.

Fiction

1. "The Broker," by John Grisham. (Doubleday, \$27.95.)
2. "The Da Vinci Code," by Dan Brown. (Doubleday, \$24.95.)
3. "The Final Solution," by Michael Chabon. (Fourth Estate, \$16.95.)
4. "Gilead," by Marilynne Robinson. (FSG, \$23.)
5. "Runaway," by Alice Munro. (Knopf, \$25.)
6. "The Plot Against America," by Philip Roth. (Houghton Mifflin, \$26.)
7. "The Five People You Meet in Heaven," by Mitch Albom. (Hyperion, \$16.95.)
8. "Case Histories," by Kate Atkinson. (Little, Brown, \$23.95.)
9. "State of Fear," by Michael Crichton. (HarperCollins, \$27.95.)
10. "Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell," by Susanna Clark. (Bloomsbury, \$27.95.)

Nonfiction

1. "Collapse," by Jared Diamond. (Viking, \$29.95.)
2. "Blink," by Malcolm Gladwell. (Little, Brown, \$25.95.)
3. "French Women Don't Get Fat," by Mireille Guiliano. (Knopf, \$22.)
4. "On Food and Cooking," by Harold McGee. (Scribner, \$35.)
5. "America (The Book)," by Jon Stewart and the "Daily Show" staff. (Warner, \$24.95.)
6. "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man," by John Perkins. (Berrett-Koehler, \$24.95.)
7. "Animals in Translation," by Temple Grandin and Catherine Johnson. (Scribner, \$25.)
8. "He's Just Not That Into You," by Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo. (Simon & Schuster, \$19.95.)
9. "Witness," by Amber Frey. (Regan Books, \$25.95.)
10. "What's the Matter with Kansas?" by Thomas Frank. (Metropolitan, \$24.)

Trade paperback fiction

1. "The Kite Runner," by Khaled Hosseini. (Riverhead, \$14.)
2. "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," by Mark Haddon

- (Vintage, \$12.)
3. "Middlesex," by Jeffrey Eugenides. (Picador, \$15.)
4. "The Time Traveler's Wife," by Audrey Niffenegger. (Harvest, \$14.)
5. "The Known World," by Edward P. Jones. (Amistad, \$13.95.)
6. "The Birth of Venus," by Sarah Dunant. (Random House, \$13.95.)
7. "The News From Paraguay," by Lily Tuck. (HarperPerennial, \$13.95.)
8. "The Secret Life of Bees," by Sue Monk Kidd. (Penguin, \$14.)
9. "The Namesake," by Jhumpa Lahiri. (Manner, \$14.)
10. "The True and Outstanding Adventures of the Hunt Sisters," by Elisabeth Robinson. (Back Bay, \$13.95.)

Trade paperback nonfiction

1. "Don't Think of an Elephant," by George Lakoff. (Chelsea Green, \$10.)
2. "Reading Lolita in Tehran," by Azar Nafisi. (Random House, \$13.95.)
3. "Bad Cat," by Jim Edgar. (Workman, \$9.95.)
4. "The Bookseller of Kabul," by Asne Seierstad. (Back Bay, \$12.95.)
5. "A Short History of Nearly Everything," by Bill Bryson. (Broadway, \$15.95.)
6. "Under the Banner of Heaven," by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor, \$14.95.)
7. "The Hidden Messages in Water," by Masaru Emoto. (Beyond Words, \$16.95.)
8. "Zagat San Francisco Bay Area Restaurants." (Zagat Survey, \$12.95.)
9. "The Devil in the White City," by Erik Larson. (Vintage, \$14.95.)
10. "Stiff," by Mary Roach. (Norton, \$13.95.)

Mass market paperback

1. "Angels & Demons," by Dan Brown. (Pocket, \$7.99.)
2. "The Last Juror," by John Grisham. (Dell, \$7.99.)
3. "Death in a Strange Country," by Donna Leon. (Penguin, \$7.99.)
4. "The Second Chair," by John LeCron. (Signet, \$7.99.)
5. "The Sinister Pig," by Tony Hillman. (HarperTorch, \$7.99.)

— Northern California Independent Booksellers Association

CHORAL GROUPS

- **Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra** — Rehearsals for the Brahms German Requiem, 7-10 p.m. Mondays. Congregational Church, large assembly hall, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. \$85 tuition, \$43 for students. 510-964-0665, www.bcco.org
- **Contra Costa Choral** — Rehearsals for "The Creation" by Haydn and "Gloria" by Vivaldi, 7:15 p.m. Mondays. All voices welcome. Experience or sight-reading ability valuable. Hillside Community Church, 1422 Navelier St., El Cerrito. 510-524-1861
- **Devil Mountain Chorus** — Rehearsals 7:45 p.m. Tuesdays, Trinity Lutheran Church fellowship hall, 2317 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek. 925-938-7664
- **Diablo Valley Masterworks Choral** — The chorale meets 7 p.m. Mondays, Room 101, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill. 925-228-8690
- **Diablo Vista Chorus** — Rehearsals 7:15 p.m. Tuesdays, Faith Christian Fellowship Church, 860 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek. 925-295-0965
- **Diablo Women's Choral** — Welcoming new members. Rehearsals 7:30 p.m. Mondays for the spring concert. Trinity Lutheran Church, 2317 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek. 925-682-3769
- **Dublin Pioneers Community Choir** — Meets 7-8 p.m. Thursdays. No prior experience, talent or skill necessary. Sing American folk, Celtic and special holiday songs. Drop-ins welcome. Dublin Heritage Center, 6600 Donlon Way, Dublin. Free. 925-803-4128
- **Golden Notes** — Winter term of classes and performances through March 22. A senior community chorus meets 10 a.m. Tuesdays. The chorus gives several performances each session. Pleasant Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Lane. Register at class. 925-676-5200
- **Harmony Crossroads Women's Chorus** — Rehearsals 7:30 p.m. Mondays at Pleasanton Community Church, Stoneridge and Santa Rita. 925-846-1857, 510-582-0933
- **Martinez Community Chorus** — Winter term classes through March 22. All voice parts. 7 p.m. Tuesdays. The chorus performs in concert and community events. Martinez Adult School, 860 F St. Information: Dee Wood, 925-687-7053; registration: 925-228-3276
- **Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus** — First Congregational Church of Oakland, 2501 Harrison St. 800-706-2389 or e-mail info@oebgmc.org.

ITIONS AND CLASSES

■ **Contra Costa Children's Chorus** — Interviews are now being held for the 2005 spring semester. Singers ages 6-14. Repertoire includes a variety of varied programs in languages, sight-singing in harmony and performing. 925-945-1200, Ext. 200

■ **Devil Mountain Choral** — Welcoming new members. Rehearsals 7:45 p.m. Tuesdays for the spring concert. Trinity Lutheran Church, 2317 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek. 925-938-7664

■ **Diablo Chorus** — Sing a variety of styles, including popular, classical and jazz. Members will learn sight-singing, musicianship and vocal technique. 3-4 p.m. Fridays. Based in Walnut Creek. 925-370-1695

■ **Diablo Women's Choral** — Welcoming new members. Rehearsals 7:30 p.m. Feb. 7 and 9, 2619 Broadway, Oakland. Openings available in all choirs for the 2005 after-school program. Members will determine a boy's musical future. He need not have sung in a choir before, nor does he need to be able to read music. The audition consists of musical games or other presentation. For an appointment, contact Pam Werner, 510-452-4722

■ **Golden Notes Playhouse** — Rehearsals 7:30 p.m. Feb. 7 and 9, 2619 Broadway, Oakland. All roles open. Be prepared to move. Prepare 16 bars of Broadway song from the '40s, '50s and '60s (not from "Camelot"); include

sheet music in appropriate key. An accompanist will be provided. No tapes or a cappella allowed. Read the full audition notice at www.pleasanton-playhouse.com. No appointment necessary. 1048 Harrison Lane, Suite 307, Pleasanton. 925-462-2121

■ **Role Players Ensemble Theatre** — "Don't Dress for Dinner," 7:30-10:30 p.m. Feb. 8. Three men and three women, 30-55. All roles require either posh British, cockney or French accent. Bring resume and headshot. One- to two-minute monologue (British or cockney accent preferred). Cold read used at callbacks. No pay. Callbacks 7:30-10:30 p.m. Feb. 15. Rehearsals begin Feb. 20. Performances April 15-May 7. 233 Front St., Danville. 925-820-1278

■ **Star Quest 2005** — "All That Jazz," 13th annual Youth Talent Show, late February and early March. For kindergarten through 12th-graders who live in Pleasant Hill or within the Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District. Applications due by Feb. 11. All types of performers are welcome. No application fees. Performance: April 16. 925-682-0896

■ **Town Hall Theatre Company** — 2005-06 season auditions 5-7 p.m. Feb. 12 and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Feb. 13, 3535 School St., Lafayette. Prepare two contrasting monologues or one monologue and one song. All should be less than two minutes. Accompanist will be provided. Teens and minorities encouraged. Dance callback for musicals TBA. All actors paid. Ac-

tors outside Contra Costa receive travel reimbursement. For an appointment: 925-283-6673

■ **Voc! Women's Vocal Ensemble** — Auditions for spring season. The 24-voice group mostly sings classical music from a wide variety of historical periods. The audition consists of ear-training, sight-singing and the performance of a prepared solo piece. To schedule an audition, contact Jude Navari, 415-425-8706

■ **Walnut Creek Concert Band** — Musicians wanted, particularly adult trumpet, cornet and percussionists. Rehearsals 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays in Walnut Creek. Walnut Creek Band org. 925-284-1583

Classes/Workshops

- **Playhouse West Performing Arts** — Winter quarter acting classes for adults begin in February. Improvisation, voice training and scene study classes. Academy classes train students in the Meisner method. Playhouse West Theatre, 1345 Locust St., Walnut Creek. \$210-\$235. 925-943-6464
- **Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District** — Acting Basics, 7:30-9 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 7-March 14. Explore stage performance techniques using acting exercises, theater games, scene work and monologue development. \$35 resident, \$43 nonresident. 925-676-5200
- **SOLAD Dance Center** — Moving Arts Dance conditioning classes. Broadway, jazz, hip-hop. 2260 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek. 925-938-3390

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BILL MANN
Multimedia Notes

French and U.S. TV differ vastly

PARIS
WATCHING Parisians scoff at TV news coverage of George Bush's inaugural in a crowded, smoke-filled brasserie in this elegant city almost made me think I was back in the heavily Democratic Bay Area.

With only a week to spend in Paris and few other tourists around, we spent an absolute minimum of time in our modest Paris hotel room. After all, with an uncrowded Louvre, Musee d'Orsay, Notre Dame and Versailles beckoning along with Paris at night (when the aptly named City of Lights comes alive), who needs to hang out in a hotel room? On a few occasions when we were in the room, however, I couldn't resist flipping around the TV dial.

French TV is qualitatively different from its devalued U.S. counterpart in too many ways to list here. Many givens on American TV are simply ignored here, underlining the increasingly wide U.S.-French media/cultural gap.

I suspect many East Bay readers would be pleasantly surprised at French TV. Unlike the American version, which panders relentlessly to the lowest common denominator, French TV is insistent on bringing culture, not consumer goods, to the masses.

A few entries from my Paris TV notebook:

It was a bit startling to see two actors dressed in chicken suits cavorting around a stage singing (not cackling) excerpts from "The Magic Flute." This during a 10-minute, in-depth arts segment about an experimental Parisian theater company — inserted right in the middle of one French TV network's evening newscast.

Most major French TV networks wall off all their commercials with graphics reading "Publicité." One such notice cracked me up — it showed workmen with jackhammers. That's something U.S. advertisers would not countenance. A Banque Populaire commercial on one 5 p.m. newscast showed a brief shot of a bare-breasted woman. It was an ad touting the bank's funding of the arts.

Here's why there are no TV grids in French newspapers: Most network shows here don't start on the hour or half hour like ours. This is presumably why French TV magazines (there are several) list shows instead by network.

For example, on one weeknight the TFI net shows "New York Police Judiciary" ("Law and Order") starting at "16.30" (4:30 p.m.), while France-2 starts shows at 3:55 and 4:50. A popular veteran TV morning host (the Matt Lauer of France?) here, France-2's William Leymargie, looks a bit like Yves Montand and has a wonderfully expressive face and an understated style. Leymargie, host of "Tele-Matin," sits there, the very picture of bemusement.

I might become a morning-TV person if I could tune in the genteel Leymargie weekdays. High-definition TV has been the norm in Europe for decades, and the sophisticated color design of TV news sets here — they often include large areas of white with bright splashes of red and blue — is years ahead of U.S. TV's visual presentation. France-2 has a regular segment called "Un Livre" (a book) on its nightly newscasts. It's a short interview with a French author talking about his new book. You'd never see this on a U.S. newscast.

France-3 runs "Euronews" each weekday morning at 6, highlighting news from other countries. It's an hour long. Can you imagine a U.S. network giving even two minutes to news of Canada and Mexico/South America daily? I saw an ad on France's TFI network for estimable classic record label Deutsche Grammophon. Can you imagine such an ad running on an American network, even A&E or Bravo?

Bill Mann's column runs every other week. Reach him at Newsman@sonic.net.



DEAN COPPOLA/STAFF

HIS SINGING TEACHER recognized that Tyler Thompson, 9, had an "angelic voice" when he was still in kindergarten in Oakland's Chinatown.

Rarin' to sing Mandarin

Oakland boy tackles Chinese opera in symphony gig

By Robert Taylor

STAFF WRITER

If you're looking for Tyler Thompson, the Chinese opera singer, that's him outside the rehearsal room at Laney College in Oakland. He's the one sliding down the banister, hanging by his knees from the railing, nibbling Goldfish crackers from a bag and chasing a flock of pigeons and a fat seagull.

"You can't take his picture now — his shirt is dirty!" exclaims Tyler's mother Vanessa Ladson as she greets a writer and photographer.

During performances, though, the African-American boy — who is gaining renown for singing folk songs and opera selections in Chinese — is focused and resolute. Once he's out the door, his mother and his music teacher, Sherlyn Chew, agree, "He's all 9-year-old boy."

Tyler whizzes down the banister after rehearsal, runs across the pavement and takes a spill, but pulls himself together, unhurt. "Tyler, chill," his mother says. "No more sugar for you today."

Like many talented young-

sters, Tyler can appear to be going in several directions at once. Chew recognized his singing ability not long after he arrived at Lincoln School in Oakland's Chinatown. He's now in the fourth grade there — one of the few non-Asian students.

"I realized Tyler's talent when he was in kindergarten," says Chew. "He had an angelic voice, a wide range and a natural affinity for timing and beat."

He was a treasured addition to Chew's school program, which teaches youngsters to sing and play Chinese music — singing in

the chorus until they're old enough to manipulate Chinese instruments. Tyler, with the help of tape recordings that his teacher prepared, seemed to have no trouble learning to sing in Chinese.

In the second grade, Tyler sang a Chinese folk song at Lincoln School's annual concert. "People cried," Chew recalls.

Since then, he has gone on to perform at Oakland City Hall, the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco and the California State

See TYLER, Page C7



TYLER'S MOTHER, Vanessa Ladson, far left, thinks her son will be a singer of some kind. Wan Peng Guo conducts as Tyler sings at a recent rehearsal at the college, right.



DEAN COPPOLA/STAFF

Festival puts focus on black choreographers

WHAT EXACTLY IS "black dance"?

It's been a question on my mind since the announcement of the Black Choreographers Festival, which takes the stage at the Malonga Casquelourd Center in Oakland this weekend and at Project Artaud in San Francisco the next weekend.

The two-week series of events — which includes workshops, master classes and symposia, as well as performances — is sponsored jointly by the African & African American Performing Arts Coalition, the Black Performing Artists Network and the ODC Theater, and the list of participants runs a gamut of backgrounds.

The balletic explorations of Alonzo King will be performed on the same program with the African dance-inspired works of the late Malonga Casquelourd. Joanna Haigood's airy flights will share space with Reginald Ray-Savage's earthy and kinetic jazz and the modern intellectualism of Robert Moses' Kin will find a meeting ground with the mad skilz of hip-hop crew Housin' Authority.

And although this festival focuses on Bay Area choreographers, it also takes advantage of a visit by Rennie Harris — whose "Facing Mekka" opens at Yerba Buena Center next



MARY ELLEN HUNT
Footnotes

IF YOU GO

WHAT: The Black Choreographers Festival

WHERE: Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts on Alice Street

WHEN: Feb. 4-6, and then continues at the Project Artaud Theater in San Francisco, Feb. 11-13.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: contact www.bchereandnow.com or 415-699-2196. The show coincides with Rennie Harris Puremovement's performances of his hip-hop-based "Facing Mekka" at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Feb. 3-5 (www.yerba-buenaarts.org).

week — to include a master class with the New York-based hip-hop b-boy.

Some 10 to 12 years ago, there were several similar festivals highlighting the contributions of a generation of black choreographers who could trace their inspiration back through the work of pioneers such as

See DANCE, Page C7



LINES BALLET

THE BALLETIC EXPLORATIONS of Alonzo King's dance troupe will be performed on the same program with the African dance-inspired works of the late Malonga Casquelourd.



JACK TUCKER
Community Notes

On the sea side of the

TWO DEFINING — one at the other at the bracket the engrossing edgy Pinole Community Center's production of "Cabaret" closing Feb. 12 at the 616 house, 601 Tennessee Ave. Pinole.

First, the Master of ceremonies (Justin Coleman) face, roughed cheeks, bow lips — oozes a raucousness as he sings (languages) a welcome sleazy Berlin nightclub ominous early 1930s.

Last, the leading entertainer at the Kit Kat the hedonistic English songstress Sally Bow (O'Brien), sings the melancholy "Cabaret" exits the darkening alone and finally dies by the decadence she elied in. A silent, shrouded of club habitude sackcloth bearing the David completes "Cabaret" a metaphor for decay and death.

"Cabaret" is more than this might sound score is hummable and vibrant. Life may not be u-u-tiful" as the emcee claims. But this seem, it, curiously, is as satirical theater as it is sinister.

Between these two entwined stories the "boy-gets-girl, boy-girl" evergreen. Sally involved with a victim, can novelist, Cliff Br (Kyle Johnson).

But the warmest, solid performances in show are those of Americans as the keeper, boarding house to who action occasionally star her Jewish suitor, play Robert Love. You act full flowering of their love until she sings the "What Would You do the coming nightfall of snatches us back to the dering reality of Germany '30s.

"Cabaret" — book Masteroff, music by Fred Eder, lyrics by Fred Eder and Janet O'Brien's direction, is a strong, pulled by an able cast.

Patti Clark, one of Pinole theater's four producers. Pat King is director, Anjee Noriega Cole, the emcee, did theography.

Once again, Pinole nity Players have demonstrated a willingness to mount a big and challenging show off with style and courage. And, with "Cabaret," no punches.

"Well done" to all. **REMEMBERING GINIA:** A memorial April 30 is planned for Cherniak, actress, founding member of Richmond's Masques house, who died Jan. East where she had since moving from Area.

The service will be the First United Methodist Church in the Point had been choir director enough for rekindling endearing, sometimes ing, stage memories ate bonds among the folks.

Like the time, for when Virginia, a Native Indian maiden in "La hold" at the Masques got her tomahawk of the tom-tom suspended her shoulder. The man waved the tomahawk more the drum whirled around her head — a faced Earth circled the tom moon.

You are missed as Bob Hope would "Thanks — for the

Reach Jack Tucker at jtucker@cctimes.com 262-2768.

Honda Pilot EX-L sport utility sports many new features in 2005

KEANE ON WHEELS

BY TOM KEANE
MOTOR MATTERS

Question: What is smoother, more refined, more powerful and more fun to drive? Give up? It's the all-new 2005 Honda Pilot.

Another question: Do you know what a Drive by Wire Throttle is? Neither did I until the Honda engineers explained it to me. It's a conventional throttle linkage with an all-new electronic system that senses the accelerator pedal position and relays that information to a computer. The result is a revised fourth and fifth gear ratio that provides a smoother transition between gears.

I suspect smooth acceleration is one of the reasons the Honda Pilot is named one of the five best trucks by Car and Driver magazine for the third consecutive year. Although the magazine had other reasons in past years, for 2005 there are numerous reasons to title the Pilot the "Ultimate Family Adventure" vehicle.

For example, my tester, the EX-L, now has Vehicle Stability Assist. Also, the driver's seat position and passenger's seat weight have sensors that correlate to the force of airbag deployment.

The Pilot is powered by an advanced 3.5-liter, 24-valve V6 that produces 255 horsepower and 250 foot pounds of torque. The engine's enlarged fuel tank to provide about 40 miles additional driving range compared to the previous model. The improved sunroof now has a wind deflector. Another improvement is a driver's footrest. The remote key fob locks or unlocks all five doors. The steering wheel contains audio controls and the steering column is now adjustable.

The vehicle appealed to me for other reasons: I really liked the appearance of this sport utility vehicle. The Pilot has smooth curved corners, and the interior is spacious and is easily transformed to haul a lot of cargo by simply folding down the 60/40-split second- and third-row seating. It also has roof rails for carrying additional

cargo. But it's the interior ambience that sets this SUV above the others. For example, the Pilot has rear

I suspect smooth acceleration is one of the reasons the Honda Pilot is named one of the five best trucks by Car and Driver magazine for the third consecutive year.

privacy glass, a security system, and an eight-way power driver's seat with lumbar support. During an unusual cold spell, I appreciated the heated front seats with the choice of high or low settings and the easy-to-understand instrumentation.

Although I didn't make use of the DVD entertainment system with 7-inch screen, plus wireless headsets, such amenities are useful



MOTOR MATTERS

2005 HONDA PILOT EX-L has no options. It features third row seating, and a DVD entertainment center that has a 7-inch screen to keep child safety seat occupants happy and quiet during extended trips.

when rear-seat passengers are traveling a great distance.

The sound system includes AM/FM six-disc CD with seven speakers, including a subwoofer. Of course, such equipment is available on other vehicles — as an option. The Pilot EX-L has no options. The bottom line, including \$460 destination, is \$34,080.

That price includes numerous other features, such as leather-

trimmed seats, audio control on the leather-wrapped steering wheel, storage in the center armrest, 12-volt power outlets, exterior temperature gauge, and a power moonroof. The second row has a fold-down activity tray.

The Pilot has numerous safety features in addition to the dual stage airbags, including front seat side-mounted airbags, side-impact door beams, front and rear crumple

zones, LATCH system for child seats, plus four-wheel disc brakes. The 16-inch alloy wheels are wrapped with all-season tires and roll quietly over the road. And the ride is very comfortable due to an all-steel unit body, stabilizer bars front and rear, and power rack-and-pinion steering. Put the package together and Car and Driver might vote the Pilot as its Ultimate Family Adventure next year, too.

MarqueMadness: Just how quick are you?

BY JON ROSNER
SECTION EDITOR

Have you ever wondered what your car was really faster than the car next to you? Did you wonder what it would be like to your car for a lap around Mazda Raceway? Would you do it while thousands of folks attending a world class race? Do it all in one weekend? MarqueMadness has been with car clubs such as Miata and Prowler, Audi, Ferrari, Lotus, Porsche, Viper Z Owners and many in

between. A few of the clubs plan to use the event as their national meet.

What's on the menu? "Spirited" parade laps, and later, pictures running through the corkscrew. Also on the agenda are a "run-what-you-brung" Marque Driver Shootout Autocross at Marina Airport, Clubs Leadership Forum, a timed rallye, a tour of the Monterey Peninsula, a fun concours, tech sessions and car coral to park your cars with others like it while watching the Rolex Grand Am Series Daytona prototypes fresh from the 24 hours of Daytona.

This is not meant to be wheel-to-wheel, door handles to the pavement competition, it is actually something closer to a United Nations of car clubs meeting. As it turns out you don't have to belong to any car club to participate, but you can bring yours along.

MarqueMadness sponsored by Shell V-Power looks like a great opportunity to cram some all encompassing car time into four days. The event runs April 28 - May 1.

Visit www.marquemadness.com, email info@marquemadness.com or call 510-528-2050.

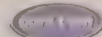
HONDA PILOT EX-L

Vehicle Type	Eight-passenger, 5-door, four-wheel drive SUV
Suggested Retail	\$33,620
Price as Tested	\$34,080
Engine Type	VTEC SOHC 24-valve, 3.5-liter V6 w/MPEI
Horsepower	255 at 5,600 rpm
Torque	250 at 4,500 rpm
Transmission	Five-speed automatic
Wheelbase	106 inches
Height	71 inches
Curb Weight	4,431 pounds
Fuel Capacity	20 gallons
Mileage	City/highway 17/22

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1952 MG gradually comes together piece by piece after 12-year effort

CLASSIC CLASSICS

BY VERN PARKER
MOTOR MATTERS

When Bill Demarest first saw the 1952 MG TD, it was in a barn — in pieces. MG produced the popular TD model from Nov. 10, 1949, until Aug. 17, 1953. Demarest's MG was blue when it left the factory in England.

During the next 29 years, the 12-foot-1-inch-long sports car had several owners and rolled up 93,000 miles. At that point its owner decided to restore the MG. He got as far as dismantling most of the vehicle when he discovered that cars come apart easier than they go back together. He lost interest and that's where Demarest entered the picture.

When Demarest first saw the dismantled MG in a Maryland barn, he envisioned what it could be. In early spring of 1981 he returned with a tow bar and bought the car. Boxes of parts and pieces were loaded into the car for the trip to Demarest's home.

The cylinder head had been removed, allowing Demarest to look down into the 76-cubic-inch, four-cylinder overhead-valve engine. There, on the top edge of one of the pistons was stamped the word

"FRONT." Of course, that edge was installed toward the rear.

It was then that Demarest pulled the engine from the car and proceeded to take the car completely apart, down to the last nut and bolt. When it went back together, he wanted to be certain that everything would be as it should be.

During the next 12 years Demarest scoured the country — and beyond — for needed parts. "I had the body tub reskinned," he says. "All of the wear items were replaced, as well as all the bearings and seals," he reports.

He says most of the restoration work was accomplished in the basement. (His wife, Donna, was thrilled.) Demarest wanted this restoration to be as authentic as possible, but he drew the line when he learned that the original color had been blue. "It had to be Coventry Red," he says and so it is. The original standard disc wheels are replaced with flashier 60-spoke wire wheels, and a new Lecarra wood-rimmed steering wheel on a telescopic column improves the appearance of the cockpit. The dashboard is covered with a walnut veneer.

A pair of very desirable "King of the Road" headlamps were on the MG, but the buckets housing the lights had been dented by years of carelessly dropping the 21-louvered

As for amenities, Demarest points out there is no heater, no air conditioning, no turn signals, no airbags, no radio, no roll-up windows. But, there are side curtains and a single electric one-speed wiper on the driver's side of the windshield.

engine hood on them. New ones are unattainable, Demarest reports, so he set about to repair his. The solution he found was melting lead wheel-balancing weights and shaping the lead to fill the holes and dents to match the outside contours of the lamps. With that tedious task completed, he sent the headlamps off to be replated with chrome.

The bucket seats and door panels are covered in biscuit-colored leather. A matching convertible top is stretched over the top rails and bows. With the top raised, the MG stands at 4 feet, 5 inches. When lowered, the top is covered by a



1952 MG TD was found in boxes. The owner had to scour the country to find the parts to put it back together. This after taking what he already had completely apart to check every nut and bolt. It took twelve years to bring it back to the fully-restored beauty that it is today.

boot of the same fabric, secured by 10 snaps. The 15-gallon gasoline tank is secured between the rear of the car and the spare tire. The engine requires 6 quarts of coolant and 4.5 quarts of oil.

Directly in front of the driver are two large dials, a 5,000-rpm tachometer beside a 100-mph speedometer. "It tops out at about 70 mph," Demarest says. "It's very comfortable between 60 and 65 mph."

As for amenities, Demarest

points out there is no heater, no air conditioning, no turn signals, no airbags, no radio, no roll-up windows. But, there are side curtains and a single electric one-speed wiper on the driver's side of the windshield.

The original 5.50x15-inch tires have been superceded by 165R15 86S radials. The nimble little car on its 94-inch wheelbase can be turned in 31 feet, 4 inches.

A dozen years have passed since the completion of the restora-

tion and the odometer passed the 105,000-mile mark. Possible, Demarest says, "It has a very nice tone, engine," he says. "There's a valve train noise to be expected."

For your car to be a subject of the Classic Classics, send a photo (frontal and side view) and a brief details and phone number to Vern Parker, 2221 Albemarle, Vienna, VA 22181. Good quality will be

An extremely rare Czech tour de force finds new life in North America

BY MATTHEW HEALEY
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

For an American car enthusiast, the first sighting is often a chance encounter on the streets of Prague in the Czech Republic. There is a magical quality about the beast, weird and coolly beautiful at the same time. The American may be puzzled — weren't all Eastern European cars small and boxy like the Yugo?

If the viewer is lucky, the car will be in motion and the purr of the air-cooled V8 engine will reply, no, I am a Tatra, the streamlined Czechoslovak queen of the road.

Until the 1990s, vintage Tatra was little known in the West — hardly a surprise, since they were mainly used by the Politburo and secret police of several East bloc nations, prized for their size, speed and good mileage. They were far too expensive for ordinary citizens, and attempts to export the cars to the West were sporadic and lackluster. William McCoskey, however, managed to find and purchase the car he had dreamed of since 1957, when as a 5-year-old he fell in love with Tatra after seeing a T603 in Time magazine.

"It was so unlike any other car I had seen," said McCoskey of Taneytown, Md. "From that moment I knew I wanted one."

He finally got his Tatra in 1993, having found one in Germany. Now president of a Tatra enthusiasts' group, McCoskey estimates that there are just 20 to 30 T603s and Tatra 600s in the United States and Canada; owners are unlikely to share the spotlight at any local show. The story of Tatra is one of innovation, repression and vindication. The company got its start in the 1850s in Moravia (then part of the Austrian Empire, later Czechoslovakia) making buggies and railway cars. Auto production began with the Præsidient in 1897.

A brilliant young engineer named Hans Ledwinka joined the company around that time and introduced innovations like all-wheel brakes, air-cooled engines and a central tube chassis with independent rear suspension. The Tatra's design and construction were years ahead of their time, strongly influencing Ferdinand Porsche, who was developing the Volkswagen Beetle on orders from Hitler;

Porsche appropriated several of Ledwinka's ideas for VW.

"Porsche admitted he was basically looking over Ledwinka's shoulder," McCoskey said. By the early 1930s, Tatra was testing aerodynamic design elements by a Hungarian designer, Paul Jaray. Many of these were incorporated into the design of the Tatra 77 of 1934. The air-cooled V8 engine was placed behind the rear axle, allowing a spacious, quiet interior, and the car had a top speed of 90 mph.

Ledwinka continued to tinker and produced a more graceful and compact model, the T 87, in 1936.

To keep the car light, much of the Tatra V8, an advanced overhead-cam design, was made of aluminum. Like its predecessor, the sleek T 87 had an airplane-type central fin at the rear, air-intake scoops along the sides to direct cooling air to the engine and a third headlight that turned with the front wheels to cast light around a curve — as the Tuckers did years later.

After World War II, Communist central planners shifted production to a rival carmaker, Skoda, where the Tatra 600 was made. But in 1957 car production returned to Tatra with a new streamlined model, the T 603. A descendant of the T 87, the first 603 also had three headlights and an air-cooled V8 and the same innovative chassis, although it traded the distinctive tailfin and louvers for a normal rear window.

A handful of Tatra were imported to Canada during the Cold War. "Canadians loved the 600 for its cold-weather abilities," McCoskey said. "The air-cooled engines are perfect for the winters." Today, the streamlined Tatra have a devoted, and growing, following. "Many people love the look of it," said Alex Veronac, a full-time Tatra importer and restorer in London, Ontario. Veronac supplied the pair of T603s used in the recent Paramount film "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events."

Veronac pointed out that the 603 was not for private owners — the colors were bland and the plastics were plain. When he refurbishes a car, he spends as much effort on

upgrading the interior as on the engine and body. "If you're investing \$30,000 in a car, you don't want it to feel like it was done on a beer budget," he said.

Obtaining parts in the United States can be a challenge. Danny Burnett of Las Vegas bought his T 603 at auction for a mere \$2,500 in 1984, but after many years in the sun it needed new paint and "jewelry" — a hood emblem and light lenses. Burnett eventually got a box full of replacements for \$150 from a Czech emigre with contacts at the Tatra factory. "I was like a kid at Christmas when that arrived," Burnett said.

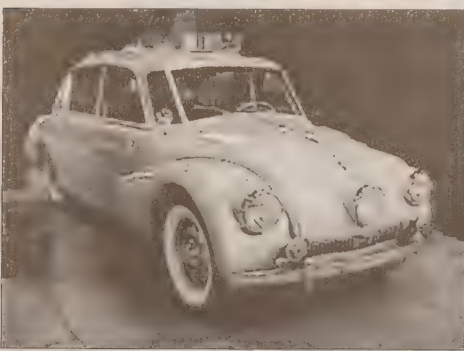
One of the few Tatra on display in the United States is an orchid-blue T 603 at the National Czech and Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It belongs to Larry Claypool, a devotee of air-cooled engines and offbeat cars who runs an automotive business in Illinois. Claypool's car was found by a friend in Austria and

came with detailed documentation of the car's provenance. "The first owner was the Planning Ministry in Prague. They kept track of every mile driven." Tatra were generally returned to the factory in Kopřivnice, Moravia, after a few years for refurbishing, including "upgrades" like a more conventional front end with four headlights. For this reason, original 603s with three headlights are rare.

Production of the T 603 continued until the 1970s, when the car was phased out in favor of the grim T 613, which had all the style of a Soviet-era apartment building. Tatra's last automobile was the ungainly T 700; car production ended in 1997. Today, Tatra makes trucks that are often used for mining and exploration. Asked about obtaining a Tatra today, Veronac laughs. "Ten years ago, you could get a T 87 for \$10,000 or \$15,000, if you could find it," he said. "Today, an owner has invested \$50,000 or \$60,000 and he won't sell it because

he is completely in love."

Karel Simek left Czechoslovakia in 1968 and eventually settled in New York. In the late 1990s, he found the cars of his youth. He bought a T 87. "After a year of searching, he still couldn't find anything but high-priced Tatra," Simek said. "So I settled on a Tatra 600." He now has a Tatra: the T 600, a design that was restored in the mid-1970s and a 1920s T 57, which had all the style of a Soviet-era apartment building. Tatra's last automobile was the ungainly T 700; car production ended in 1997. Today, Tatra makes trucks that are often used for mining and exploration. Asked about obtaining a Tatra today, Veronac laughs. "Ten years ago, you could get a T 87 for \$10,000 or \$15,000, if you could find it," he said. "Today, an owner has invested \$50,000 or \$60,000 and he won't sell it because



CZECH TATRA MODEL 603 which belongs to Martin Swig of San Francisco is a direct descendant of the aerodynamic air-cooled rear-engine cars designed by Hans Ledwinka of Czech. The concept was copied by Dr. Ferdinand Porsche who paid royalties for the design.

Greater variety is coming to America's roads

DOWN THE ROAD

BY CHERYL JENSEN
MOTOR MATTERS

Many new products were introduced in January at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Mich. Some are all-new and others, such as Saturn and Subaru, have new front faces, by which we will come to know their brands. But the one thing the show signaled was that Americans will be getting more variety than ever.

Here's a fast-forward trip through the new looks, along with a few assessments by some top auto designers who shared their thoughts during interviews with Motor Matters.

The Fusion showcases the new face of Ford cars with the chrome three-bar grille reinforced below with two bars. It, and Lincoln's version, the Zephyr, are expected to be on sale in the fall.

Subaru's B9 Tribeca seven-passenger sport utility vehicle, which goes on sale early summer, shows Subaru's new family face and its plans to move more deeply into the sport-utility market. "We have been used to that face in Japan. It's not very SUV-like; it's quite a car-like grille. It will be interesting to see how it's accepted," said Moray Callum, general manager, Mazda Design Division, which is part of the Ford Motor Company family.

Kia is developing its own design vocabulary and "their designs are high-quality," acknowledged Bruce Camp-

bell, vice president, Nissan Design America, Inc.

With the 2007 Sky two-seater, not due until early 2006, Saturn is trying to reinvent itself by introducing a small, high-quality sports car, Campbell said.

Honda's new Ridgeline, on sale in March, is aimed at keeping Honda customers away from domestic automakers. It is the first with a trunk under the cargo bed. Honda wants to be able to keep many of its 50,000 customers who each year have been leaving the brand when they want pickup trucks. "They obviously think the market is big enough to be spread around," Callum said.

While there was talk about hybrids and the future of hydrogen-fuel, it was overshadowed by the introduction of the new Corvette Z06 and BMW M5, both with 500-horsepower engines. Cadillac's STS-V isn't far behind with 400 horsepower. Those three models, available later this year, go from zero to 60 mph in under 5 seconds.

"Green or mean," was the way Peter Horbury, executive director of Design, North America, for the Ford Motor Company, heard the auto show described. It was also clear that the Asians are applying pressure. Ford executives are very interested in how the Asian brands have been improving the quality of their interiors in terms of fit and finish, materials and content, Horbury said. In particular, he cited Hyundai's Sonata, Infiniti's M45 and Toyota's Avalon. "It certainly keeps us on our toes. The goal post never stays

still," he said.

"In terms of surfacing and styling the Korean makes are really making a big effort, not to conform, but to play with the big boys," said David Marek, chief designer, senior manager, Honda R&D Americas. They have toned down the faces of their vehicles to make them more palatable and are trying to make the surfaces a little more elegant, he said.

There was also more experimentation with the blurry segment called "crossovers," said Anne Asensio, executive director of advanced design, General Motors Design Center. The crossover segment still has not been established as something everybody can recognize, she explained. When someone says "minivan" everybody knows what that means. But say "crossover" and it is open to debate.

One that is open to debate is the Mazda3, which will be on sale mid-summer for under \$20,000. It is kind of a mini-minivan, if you will. Not much bigger than the Mazda3, yet features three rows of seats and sliding rear side doors. Asensio, who is from France and designed for Renault, doesn't see the Mazda3 as a crossover, but rather as an example of the "globalization of design," since it is already available outside the United States.

The Mazda3 is one example of what Asensio sees as the beginning of "an extraordinary expansion of the choices" Americans have, as more and more vehicles sold elsewhere come to the United States.

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Brentwood resident is gunning to win the most competitive class in drag racing

BY JON ROSNER
SECTION EDITOR

Not that long ago Brentwood was a sleepy little town made up of orchards of almond and pear trees and a variety of fruits on its farms. Brentwood is now a small town image and is growing up. The farms are turning into housing tracts and a lot of kids have left town. One of the kids who stayed in Brentwood and made good is David Baca.

Baca, 49, owns Allstate Contract Floors in Pittsburg and has 200 people working for him, but his real passion — what really drives him — is racing his top fuel dragster. Baca is an emerging force in the top fuel arena, which is the fastest and most competitive category in drag racing.

Said Baca, "I had to do it on my own. I started my business in 1981, and in 1986 started running an all-around funny car (at the drag strip.) We did very well. In 1994 I took two years off to raise my children. It was at that point that I was approached by a colleague and offered the chance to go into a fuel class, which I ran from 2001 to 2001. We held a few events and did well. We bought a top fuel dragster in 2002."

Baca ran the team, but didn't drive the car himself until 2003, and at 47 he became the oldest "trookie" ever to enter the top fuel racing class.

"I had to wait until I had personal money" to be able to afford to do it, he said. "It's something I've wanted since I was a kid. I used to go to school, come home and go to baseball and then wear my school uniform and work with my dad on his dragster, in the garage."

When he smiles the lines of determination etched into David's face are easily visible. This man has goals — he wants to win, this man has goals — he knows what he has to do to win. This man has goals to meet those goals. There's strength in the firm handshake. The man to achieve pulsates strongly through his veins.

In 2003, his rookie year as a top fuel racer, David Baca led the way in qualifying and then drove his team to a track record elapsed time of 4.499 seconds for the quarter-mile at 326.32 mph at the Macomber U.S. Nationals, in Clermont, Mo. in the A fuel class. At the Nationals AA fuel class Finals in Pomona last November, Baca "To get my first #1 qualifier at the top race of the year in what is to be the quickest field in the country during my rookie year, is

amazing."

At the same race top fuel champion Shirley Muldowney and three-time champion Don Garlits failed to qualify. Baca went on to Millington, Tennessee, to post a top fuel track record of 4.533 seconds at 319.75 mph.

Like father, like son

David teasingly said that his dad had started drag racing back when wheels were square. For the boys in the senior Baca's high school class of 1957 what you did for fun was go after school to the junk yard and get a '32 Ford, stuff in a V8 and build a hot rod. A Chevy motor in a Willys became a front-engine dragster. Kids would meet at Mel's Dinner and then head for a deserted and quiet paved road. Cars would then line up with headlights illuminating a path for the grudge match. Flag pointed to each driver, drop and run.

In the late 1950s the National Hot Rod Association took drag racing off the street to a few ex-military air strips in Fremont, Sears Point and around the region. Because of World War II Ford built essentially the same flathead V8 from 1932 to 1950, and Chevrolet the same six through 1955. In this era kids play with computers, in this era kids played with the new overhead valve V8s and that led to the hot rod revolution.

Dennis Baca is a man of six feet in height, with the grip of an iron worker, quite the strong presence. He was a fierce competitor and ran with racers like Don Garlits and Don Prudhomme. Garlits was the first man to run a rear-engine dragster, but Dennis Baca was the second. The senior Baca took home a pile of championship trophies including the U.S. Nationals and World Finals in 1977. He retired from racing in 1980 to work on his commercial land and warehouse development business.

After his rookie success David Baca was on his way to winning. But he felt that he could do better. He understood that he needed well-seasoned hands to help him win and he made a call. "Dad, I need you to come back because only the old-timers know what is going on." Pretty humble for a guy who made it to number seven in his rookie year.

Dennis Baca said that he would come back and help out. That was last May. And for the balance of 2004 Baca only ran in six full races. The rest of the time the pair spent hiring new staff and looking at every piece of the dragster. They worked together, father and son, making

everything better. They put in larger fuel pumps that run 96 gallons per minute, a bigger blower, tweaked the computerized fuel management system, and made a host of other small but critical changes.

"We have around 8,000 horsepower propelling a 2,200-pound vehicle to 330 mph in 1,320 feet. We are one of the top runners in the U.S. and we make as much horsepower in one cylinder as the Nascar racers make in eight."

The new team that David and Dennis Baca put together work tirelessly on the dragster. They move about the racing preparation shop in Brentwood like the parts of a well-oiled machine. Few words are spoken and each motion efficiently leads to the next by another team member.

According to David Baca, "These are the fastest accelerating vehicles known to man, we accelerate faster than the space shuttle. When you're driving you go through a nine-G swing in four seconds." Drivers are slammed back with four to five Gs of force on acceleration and pulled forward four to five Gs when the chute opens to slow down.

"We have around 8,000 horsepower propelling a 2,200-pound vehicle to 330 mph in 1,320 feet. We are one of the top runners in the U.S. and we make as much horsepower in one cylinder as the Nascar racers make in eight."

And Dennis Baca was beaming with pride in his son when he chimed in that "at the World Final (last year) David set a track record."

David Baca said, "Fuel equals power, 96 gallons per minute, 15 gallons per quarter-mile, the ignition is 44 amps — you could weld with it." Dad added, "The fuel is nitro-methane, one or two parts away from nitroglycerin. Each explosion goes off like a hand-grenade in the combustion chamber on each stroke" of the engine. "We have seen melted pistons and burned rods — if something goes wrong you can have a horrific explosion." He added, "We now have titanium shields to protect the



DAVID AND DENNIS BACA are reunited after 15 years. They are the only top fuels drag racing team in Northern CA. They have great car and team and stand a strong chance of winning the national championship.

driver" form potential explosions.

"Our goal is to come out swinging. We can beat the big-sponsored cars as an independent. We feel that we have the talent." Baca's team has to be the most competitive independent team in Top Fuel

Drag Racing, and he's got a great shot at taking home all the marbles.

Drag racing has a growing presence in the press, on television and is becoming a top-seller in terms of hospitality for sponsoring clients and their customers. Baca is looking for

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But all you have to do to meet this father and son and their team and you'll feel that they could probably win the top fuel championship given their hard work, tremendous talent and lots and lots of adrenaline.

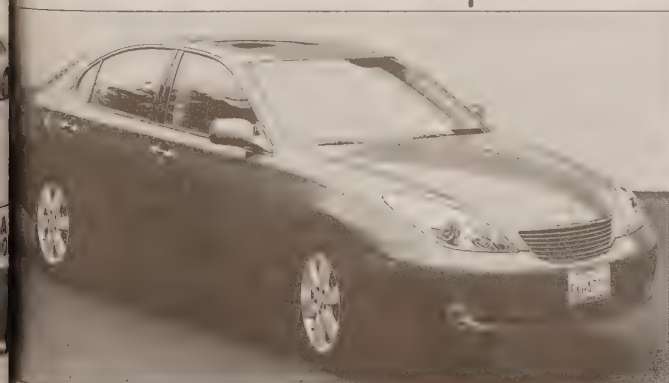
Meet David Baca at the "NHRA Tour de Charity"

David Baca will be at the 3rd annual "NHRA Tour de Charity" at Infineon Raceway. Infineon will host a fund-raiser on its 16-track, three-mile kart track on Saturday, Feb. 5, from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. The 50 fans who register will have

a reserved seat for the action-packed day. Cost is \$300 — a savings of \$50 over the 2003 price — and includes a day of karting with some of the NHRA's top stars, autographs, lunch, and the chance to compete in a 10-lap timed race for

a grand prize. All proceeds benefit Speedway Children's Charities, which serves needy youth organizations in Sonoma County. To reserve a seat call 800-870-RACE, or e-mail dsilver@infineonraceway.com.

The 2005 Lexus is sumptuous



LEXUS ES 330 has an attractive interior that is swathed in leather and furniture-grade veneers.

BY JON ROSNER
SECTION EDITOR

The new Lexus ES 330 is a wonderfully appealing car that takes a pages out of the story of the three bears. Lexus isn't designed to be over-the-top, avant garde or stand out in any way from the crowd. Its exterior lines are meant to be subtle. It's also designed to attract attention on the road, particularly from individuals who red and blue lights on the cars. As usual with a Lexus, the panel fit is darn near perfect with nothing out of place. The stitching is beautiful, the seats are high quality leather, the seats cross between a bench seat and a bucket seat. Like Papa Bear's porridge, they are just right for me. The seats were easy to read and done, with wood veneer on the lower two-thirds. The seats sound lovely and picks up the public radio jazz station, clearly, and consistently that

most receivers. The radio, heater and air and map controls are nice to look at, nice to touch, but are verging on the complex. Pull back a little: the interior is swathed in quality leather and high-end furniture quality veneer and it looks sumptuous and is very impressive.

The first day we had the car we had the shocks set for full soft, the ride was 1965 Lincoln Continental pillow-soft, and the car wallowed slightly at highway speeds. The next day we tried full-sport on the shocks, but just for a while as the ride was slightly jolting, but not truly sports-car like. Then we set the shocks one notch forward of the middle toward the sporting end and the ride was just right. The car was pretty quiet on the road, and the only intrusion was the occasional muffled roar from the tires on a few less than perfect roads.

There was one big problem for us, fitting a larger child safety seat was like going to the dentist. The recessed receiver was under the side of the seat and was an

absolute struggle to work with, requiring two hands to close. But then, the ES 330 is an expensive car and not likely to be the first choice of young and growing families.

It is targeted at near luxury buyers who might otherwise choose from an S-Type Jaguar, BMW five series, six series Audi, Lincoln, Cadillac or a nice Volvo. For this group the interior shines as one of the most attractive. The label says Lexus, but the build quality is Toyota top-of-the-line and that means well-screwed and durable.

The ES 330 is a very well-made car that should spend very little time in the shop and is very acceptable anywhere high-end and expensive automobiles are expected.

Lexus owners can expect to be very well cared for by the dealers, and they are a very loyal lot. Lexus only started 14 years ago, but they are now a benchmark in their area of focus, and that is pretty impressive in this very demanding segment of the market.

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With the changes coming more variety will be available to America's roads



2005 FORD 500 is an example of one of the new cars coming out of Detroit that offers buyers the choice of front or four wheel drive.

DOWN THE ROAD

BY CHERYL JENSEN
MOTOR MATTERS

Many new products were introduced in January at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Mich. Some are all-new and others, such as Saturn and Subaru have new front faces, by which we will come to know their

brands. But the one thing the show signaled was that Americans will be getting more variety than ever.

Here's a fast-forward trip through the new looks, along with a few assessments by some top auto designers who shared their thoughts during interviews with Motor Matters.

The Fusion showcases the new face of Ford cars with the chrome three bar grille reinforced below with two bars. It, and Lincoln's version, the Zephyr, are expected to be on

sale in the fall.

Subaru's B9 Tribeca seven-passenger sport utility vehicle, which goes on sale early summer, shows Subaru's new family face and its plans to move more deeply into the sport-utility market. "We have been used to that face in Japan. It's not very SUV-like; it's quite a car-like grille. It will be interesting to see how it's accepted," said Moray Calum, general manager, Mazda Design Division, which is part of the Ford Motor Company family.

Ford executives are very interested in how the Asian brands have been improving the quality of their interiors in terms of fit and finish, materials and content, Horbury said. In particular, he cited Hyundai's Sonata, Infiniti's M45 and Toyota's Avalon. "It certainly keeps us on our toes. The goal post never stays still," he said.

Kia is developing its own design vocabulary and "their designs are high-quality," acknowledged Bruce Campbell, vice president, Nissan Design America, Inc.

With the 2007 Sky two-seater, not due until early 2006, Saturn is trying to reinvent itself by introducing a small, high-quality sports car, Campbell said.

Honda's new Ridgeline, on sale

in March, is aimed at keeping Honda customers away from domestic automakers. It is the first with a trunk under the cargo bed. Honda wants to be able to keep many of its 50,000 customers who each year have been leaving the brand when they want pickup trucks. "They obviously think the market is big enough to be spread around," Calum said.

While there was talk about hybrids and the future of hydrogen-fuel, it was overshadowed by the introduction of the new Corvette Z06 and BMW M5, both with 500-horsepower engines. Cadillac's STS-V isn't far behind with 400 horsepower. Those three models, available later this year, go from zero to 60 mph in under 5 seconds.

"Green or mean," was the way Peter Horbury, executive director of Design, North America, for the Ford Motor Company, heard the auto show described. It was also clear that the Asians are applying pressure. Ford executives are very interested in how the Asian brands have been improving the quality of their interiors in terms of fit and finish, materials and content, Horbury said. In particular, he cited Hyundai's Sonata, Infiniti's M45 and Toyota's Avalon. "It certainly keeps us on our toes. The goal post never stays still," he said.

"In terms of surfacing and styling the Korean makes are really making a big effort, not to conform, but to play with the big boys," said

David Marek, chief design manager, Honda R&D. They have toned down their vehicles to make them palatable and are trying the surfaces a little more, he said.

There was also mention of the blurring called "crossovers," Asensio, executive vice president of advanced design, General Motors Design Center. The segment still has not been established as something everyone recognizes, she explained. Someone says "minivan" and you know what that means, "crossover" and it is a debate.

One that is open to debate is the Mazda5, which will be on sale in summer for under \$20,000. It's a mini-minivan, if you will, much bigger than the features three rows of seating and sliding rear side doors.

Asensio, who is from the U.S., designed for Renault, the Mazda5 as a crossover rather than an example of "crossover" design, she already available outside the States.

Whether it is a crossover the Mazda5 is one example. Asensio sees as the "an extraordinary experience" choices Americans have and more vehicles sold come to the United States.

Land Rover's latest is the LR3



2005 LANDROVER LR3 has improved ergonomics and 90 square feet of cargo space with seats folded.

BY G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

Land Rover may have shot itself in the foot with the introduction of the all-new LR3 for 2005, a midsize premium SUV that replaces the somewhat stodgy Discovery model that had been around basically unchanged since 1994.

Built on what Land Rover calls an "all-new" chassis platform that this British subsidiary of Ford Motor Co. spent a reported \$1.2 billion to develop, the LR3 carries a base price range of \$45,000-\$50,000. It's a quite credible entry in the mid-priced luxury sport utility segment, up against such competition as the Lexus GX 470, BMW X5, Mercedes-Benz ML500 and Acura MDX.

Looking at the specifications, the LR3 is nearly identical in size to the newest generation of the Range Rover.

Although Land Rover insists that the LR3 is on an all-new chassis, there seem to be a lot of similarities with the Range Rover, including a four-wheel independent air suspension and a body that has an integrated two-rail frame, rather than the previous body-on-steel-frame arrangement of the Discovery. There are some differences — the Range Rover has aluminum doors, hood and front quarter panels, while the LR3's body is all zinc-coated steel, for instance. But for the life of me I can't tell much difference in driving and handling, which is excellent both on- and off-road for both vehicles. At first glance, it might seem that the engines are the same as well.

They both are V8s with nearly identical specs — including 268 cubic inches of displacement. The Range Rover's 4.4-liter engine has

282 horsepower, while the LR3's is rated at 300 hp.

Land Rover says, however, that the Range Rover's engine is a BMW design, while the LR3's is derived from a 4.2-liter Jaguar engine, which got several millions of dollars worth of redevelopment to make it work in a heavy truck like the LR3.

What should be significant to anyone considering the Range Rover: The LR3's slightly higher horsepower actually gives it better performance — zero to 60 mph in eight seconds compared with nine seconds in the Range Rover; top speed of 130 mph for the LR3 and 122 mph for the Range Rover.

But for those who like to do serious trail driving, here is a plus for the less-expensive LR3: I believe it has a better four-wheel-drive setup, thanks to its nifty "terrain response" system that allows the driver to automatically choose one of five settings for different road conditions. This, for now, is exclusive to the LR3.

The settings are general driving, grass/gravel/snow for slippery surfaces, and three separate off-road modes: mud/ruts, sand, and rock crawling. These last three make use of low-range gearing, locking center differential and other technology to give the LR3 an awesome ability to go just about anywhere the driver might choose to take it. Of course, if you do plan to go off-road — and 45 percent of Land Rover owners do so, compared with about 10 percent of owners of other SUVs — it might be more practical to negotiate rugged trails in a \$50,000 vehicle rather than a \$70,000 one.

The Range Rover has been the company's top U.S. offering since coming here in 1987, and has been

a darling of the moneyed set. At one point, I went off-road with entertainer Jimmy Buffet in one of his four Range Rovers, at a time when these vehicles were the most luxurious SUVs on the planet.

But as a practical person, I could live very easily with the LR3, which is easier better than the Discovery model that it replaced.

Inside, the ergonomics are quite an improvement, with, finally, sport-style front bucket seats that actually are comfortable for long drives; decent leg room for middle-row passengers; and two single-passenger, forward-facing third-row seats (a \$1,250 option) that allow the LR3 to hold up to seven people in relative comfort.

Like the new Chrysler minivans, the LR3's middle and rear seats can be folded completely into the floor to create a 90 square-foot cargo area. With the third row of seats in place, however, cargo space is limited to just 9.9 cubic feet.

Fuel economy isn't great, at 14 miles per gallon city/18 highway, but that's about par for this class of vehicle, and better than that of some really popular competitors such as the Hummer H2 (don't even ask).

Two trim levels are offered: the base SE model, with a starting price of \$44,995 (including freight), and our test vehicle, the uplevel HSE version (\$49,995). With the HSE, the extra \$5,000 buys a driver information system, front fog lights, garage-door opener, automatic headlights with power washers, memory seats, automatic day/night mirror, DVD/GPS navigation system, rear parking assist, rain-sensing front wipers, and an upgraded stereo.

by several other automakers that followed a few days later at the annual Detroit show.

The SUV is the Torrent, which goes on sale this summer as a 2006 model, giving Pontiac what essentially is just a version of the Chevrolet Equinox, which was introduced last year.

Of course, the Equinox essentially is a version of the Saturn VUE, which was introduced three years ago.

The Torrent and Equinox look a lot alike, but the VUE is quite different (including its Honda V6 engine), although it's on the same chassis as the other two.

While GM is billing the Torrent as Pontiac's first SUV, it is replacing the Aztek, which arguably was really the first Pontiac sport utility,

BY JIM MATEJA
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"We flat-out can't get enough Chrysler 300 or Dodge Magnums to meet demand," says Eric Ridenour, executive vice president of product development for Chrysler Group. Where have we heard that before? Oh, yes, from Chrysler.

When the PT Cruiser bowed in the 2001 model year, consumers were so captivated waiting lists were posted at dealerships. Prompted by media outcry to build more, Chrysler added production at its plant in Graz, Austria, to keep up with demand. But supply not only caught demand, it soon exceeded it, and the same media that criticized Chrysler for not building enough criticized it for building too many.

The same danger awaits 300/Magnum. Not only has Chrysler raised production at its plant in Brampton, Ontario, it soon adds extra output at its plant in Graz. But Ridenour says that though it may be the same tune, this time it's being played in a different key.

"We're sold out now and will add a third model, the Dodge Charger, this spring, which will give us three strong cars. So we expect to be sold out for a long time," he said in an interview.

"We don't see the 300 as a one-car wonder. It's not going to be like the PT that was strong only a few

months. It's been on sale eight months and still everyone is talking about it," he insisted. Doesn't hurt that just about every publication or group that awards a car of the year trophy, 16 at last count, bestowed it on the 300/300C.

To renew interest once PT demand softened, Chrysler developed derivatives, such as a high-performance GT as well as a convertible. Each offspring jumpstarted sales. Chrysler learned that lesson well, and Charger is the first derivative. Ridenour said Chrysler is looking at others. "Unlike the PT, we want to look at derivatives we could do before sales cool rather than ask what we should do after it happens," he said. There's been talk, for example, of a stretch limo.

"A limo is one of the options we're looking at. Some of our rivals are in that business and doing well. It's something we could do if things start to cool, and we're studying it." Another possibility is a convertible. At the Detroit Auto Show, ASC, which produces specialty cars, displayed a convertible version of the 300C.

"The convertible conversion was stunning," Ridenour said. "It's hard to do a four-door convertible and maintain body stiffness, and a two-door convertible is more traditional. But don't rule one out, though no decision has been made as yet."

Is General Motors prepared, as

some suggest, to be No. 1 in the car market someday? That's not what GM Chairman Rick Wagoner says. "It would be silly not to think that Toyota has done things right, but it's not like the turn." "Six years ago the market and competition began to change and now we have a 33 percent share of that market and a 3 percent share and we're in China." So he goes to China to stay ahead of the game.

The domestic automakers that the No. 1 problem with their aging work force, care, which costs each worker \$1,000 for every year. But will Washington help the issue?

"There are a lot of mandates on the economy to be addressed first, and care isn't one of the prime John Deane, chief financial officer for General Motors. Deane also said he expects interest rate hikes coming from the Federal Reserve in 2005. The price of a healthy economy, interest rates, we'll take the price of the price to pay for a healthy economy," he said.

Write to Jim Mateja at jmateja@tribune.com, 616 Attn: Drive, IL 60061-1523, or send e-mail including name and home phone to jmateja@tribune.com.

The promotion of fast cars is under fire

BY TOM INCANTALUPO
NEWSDAY

The auto safety community wants to lighten America's increasingly heavy foot. Activists and officials are worried that decades of gains from safer vehicles are being diluted by a new crop of hot cars, hot drivers and overheated advertising. So they're pressuring the federal government to help, and organizing a safety "summit" to put on the brakes.

The activists point to the growing number of cars equipped with high-powered engines with 400, and even 500, horsepower. They are unhappy, as well, about ads for the newest generation of high performance cars that emphasize speed.

"We want the car companies to really look at their ads and to be more responsible," said Jonathan Adkins, a spokesman for the Governors Highway Safety Association.

Federal regulators recognize the problem but are reluctant to try to force changes. "I think you have to differentiate the performance of a vehicle versus the driver's misuse of that performance," said Jeffrey Runge, who is the United States' top auto safety official as administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

But, he said in an interview, carmakers have a responsibility to understand the potential impact of their advertising.

"I'm really not inclined to jawbone the industry into tuning

down their ads," he said, "but I would like them to be mindful of the messages being sent, particularly to younger drivers, about speed and performance."

In June, the safety agency plans to sponsor what organizers are calling a summit in Washington, D.C., at which an international group of safety experts and activists and law enforcement and other government officials are expected to explore ideas for slowing down America.

The debate is almost as old as the automobile itself. Carmakers say they simply give customers what they want.

"Right now the drive for more and more power in cars is way larger than the drive for more and more hybrids," General Motors vice chairman Bob Lutz told reporters Monday at a media preview of the Detroit auto show.

What's new is that carmakers are in another horsepower race unlike any before. They're now turning out vehicles that can outrun any of the "muscle cars," produced in the industry's last power race in the 1960s. Even Volvo, which has long emphasized safety as a marketing tool, is displaying a 600 hp experimental version of its XC90 SUV in Los Angeles.

Runge's agency estimates that one or more drivers involved in 30 percent of fatal crashes was speeding.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, a research group based in Virginia, says sporty

models tend to have higher rates because they're driven more aggressively and are relatively lighter in weight.

In a report a year ago, the agency cited research that showed increased fatalities on highways where speed limits have been raised from 55 mph to 65 mph, and from 65 mph to 75 mph during the "Yet," the group said, "both rural and urban areas are going faster and faster, and by automakers who build powerful cars and tout the capabilities in ad after ad."

Experts concede that speed is a cultural trait. The United States and elsewhere that's not easy to control speed is perceived by many as a low-risk infraction. The industry analyst Chris O'Neil with the market research trend of Thousand Oaks, Calif., says that in survey after survey, new car buyers and performance are among the most important factors in a vehicle.

"Vehicles are entering the faster they go, the more training they are," Eron Spence, spokesman for the Automobile Manufacturers Association, says that carmakers warn of slides and other automotive ads are done by drivers on closed courses, he says, "Automakers spend a lot of money each year on safety."

Pontiac rebuilding excitement

BY G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
ALBANY TIMES-UNION

LOS ANGELES — Pontiac wants to become a full-service car company and would love to have your business.

After years of languishing in relative obscurity along with most of the other General Motors divisions, Pontiac is now pushing to regain the strength it once had, as well as its reputation as the performance brand in the GM fold.

In the past, the division was well-known for its "We build excitement" theme. Putting the pizzazz back into the brand was behind the introduction last year of the new GTO coupe, complete with a 350-horsepower, Corvette small-block V8; the 2003 introduction of a completely redesigned midsize Grand Prix, with

a supercharged 260-horsepower V6 engine in the sportiest version; and last year's rollout of a Northstar 4.6-liter V8 powered version of the full-size Bonneville, the GXP.

This past fall, besides raising the horsepower of the GTO to 400, Pontiac rolled out a beautiful new sport sedan, the G6, to replace the venerable Grand Am. It's already a best-seller. Now three more vehicles are about to join Pontiac's lineup: the division's first SUV, as well as coupe and hardtop convertible versions of the G6.

GM North America President Gary Cowger and Vice Chairman Robert Lutz unveiled the three newest Pontiacs at the recent Los Angeles International Auto Show. That gave them a head start over a mass of new-vehicle introductions

which are becoming more and more common in the SUV market.

Adding a crossover to the Torrent to the Pontiac line really competes with GM's line.

Secondly, Pontiac needs a viable replacement for the Aztek, which has been the biggest flop in recent years.

GM never actually called the ungainly Aztek an SUV, however; it was marketed as an "SAV," or sport activity vehicle.

And GM would have us believe that the 2005 Pontiac Montana minivan is more SUV than van, thanks to its new sport-utility-style front end.

GM actually no longer refers to the Montana as a minivan; instead,

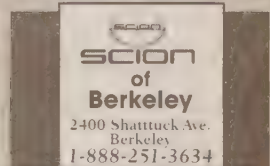
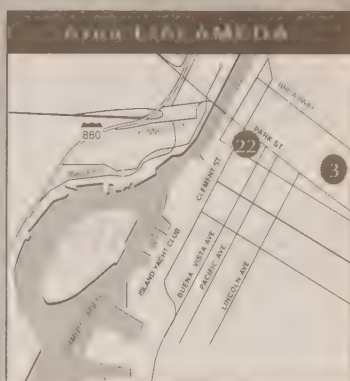
it's now a sport van or "midvan," since it's actually larger than the average minivan. As I've said before, GM has not rushed to add a range of SUVs to the Pontiac line, because it already has plenty in the GMC truck lineup.

Why give the brand one now? Two reasons: GMC has no car-based crossover sport utilities,

which are becoming more and more common in the SUV market.

Adding a crossover to the Torrent to the Pontiac line really competes with GM's line.

Secondly, Pontiac needs a viable replacement for the Aztek, which has been the biggest flop in recent years.



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 needs TLC, super
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SPORTS

• Friday, February 21, 2003

Oilers set for NCS opener

By Orlando Melton

At 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 1, the NCS Oilers will open their season with a home game against the Houston Oilers. The Oilers will be looking to get off to a good start in their new stadium, the Astrodome, which will be the site of the game.

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Cancered games hurt Salesian

The Salesian Society has been hit hard by the cancer epidemic.

This image shows a blank, aged, cream-colored page, likely an endpaper or flyleaf of a book. The paper has a slightly textured appearance with some faint smudges and discoloration, characteristic of old paper. The right edge of the image shows the binding structure, including the spine and the edges of other pages, indicating this is a page from a bound volume.

10

**From balls, pucks and pins to oars, sails and skis,
we've got local sports covered.**

The best and largest classified section in the greater East Bay Area

Announcements

Found
 A large, black and white, long-haired cat, possibly a Maine Coon, was found on the street near the intersection of 14th and Broadway. The cat is very friendly and loves to be petted. If anyone has information about this cat, please call 415-435-1234.

Found
 A small, black and white, short-haired dog, possibly a Chihuahua, was found on the street near the intersection of 14th and Broadway. The dog is very friendly and loves to be petted. If anyone has information about this dog, please call 415-435-1234.

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East Contra Costa Licensed Child Care

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Pets

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Animal Services

DOG TRAINING Obedience, agility, prob. solving & dog walking. Call 925-837-7334.
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Pets

CAIRN TERRIER Pups (Toto), Champ pedig. Sold. 925-755-8883.
CANARIES Beautiful singers. 925-755-8883.

Pets

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CHIHUAHUA AKC, male, 14 wks, black & tan, purebred, 2 shots \$650. 925-432-3982.

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CHIHUAHUA D-p.s. purebred, 1st shot, 14 wks, \$450. 925-755-8883.
COCKATOP 14yr old, white, male, good w/kids. 925-755-8883.

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COCKATOP 14yr old, white, male, good w/kids. 925-755-8883.

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PEMBROKE Welsh Corgi, AKC, 4 males, 3 Fem. 925-755-8883.
PITBULL 1 yr, blk. male, 925-755-8883.

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DINETTE Set, maple, round w/wht. tile inlay. 925-755-8883.

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Employment

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Mercy Retirement & Care Center, a beautiful retirement community located in Oakland, seeks the following:

MAINTENANCE MANAGER

Requires knowledge in all aspects of building maintenance operations including HVAC, plumbing, electrical, phone systems, fire alarm safety & preventative maintenance. Must have a good understanding of code & strong communication, organization & computer skills.

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Requires the ability to perform a variety of repair & maintenance tasks throughout the buildings & grounds. Exp. in maint. or related field pref. Req's HS diploma or equivalent. Current CA DL & proof of good driving record.

Send resume to: Joe Muzzey, 2361 29th Street, Oakland, CA 94612. Fax: 510-536-6258. email: merycjobs@earthlink.net

MAINTENANCE PERSON min. 2 yrs. exp. in Apt. Maintenance. Strong plumbing & elec. skills for all unit components in Antioch. Fax resume to 925-754-1835. **Web ID CC012177835**

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W/cond. Exp. in plumbing & elec. skills for all unit components in Antioch. Fax resume to 925-754-1835. **Web ID CC012177835**

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Employment

MANAGEMENT

District Manager Walnut Creek Area

We are seeking an individual with leadership and line management skills to be a district manager in the Walnut Creek area. This position involves managing a team of sales representatives and ensuring they meet their sales goals. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 5 years of experience in a similar role and a strong understanding of the local market. Compensation is competitive and includes a car allowance. Please submit your resume to: **Contracosta Newspapers, Human Resources, 2640 Shadelands Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94598. Or fax 925-977-4444. Email: jobs@ccn.com**

MANAGEMENT

Human Resources

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MANAGEMENT

Human Resources

Employment

MANAGEMENT

Environmental Health & Safety Manager

Env. H&S mgr. w/5 yrs. min. exp. Candidate must be technically competent in occupational & environmental regulations. Must have safety experience, training exp., workers' comp, program development & strong admin. & computer skills. Competitive compensation & benefits. Send resume to: **Contracosta Newspapers, Human Resources, 2640 Shadelands Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94598. Or fax 925-977-4444. Email: jobs@ccn.com**

MANAGEMENT

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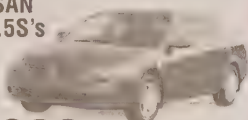
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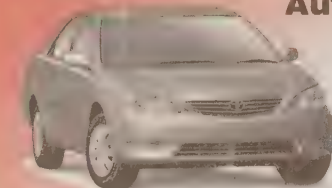
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Shopping Plus

Friday, February 4, 2005

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Welcome to the 'Funky House'

BY STACY DOWNS

KNIGHT RIDER NEWSPAPERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A 6-foot-tall niche sits front and center in Becki Speakman's entryway, giving visitors a hint of what's to come in the rest of the house. The niche is filled with strings of giant transparent plastic balloons hanging mobile-like in the wall recess.

The curving staircase, shining gemstones from the light streaming through the windows: red, yellow, green, red. The geometric shapes — I could not find a usual flower arrangement there," says Speakman, owner and designer of One Mind, a company that specializes in home decorating and scrapbook supplies for national craft retailers such as Hobby Lobby and Michaels. "And of course, I love the bright colors."

Influenced by the graphic design and vibrant hues of her products, Speakman transformed the traditional two-story division house she shares with her husband and two of their four sons into something colorful.

The house is a little more exotic than most, says Christian, Speakman's oldest son. "My friends say, 'This is the funky house, this is the funky house.' It makes people feel greeted and welcomed."

As an example of Speakman's style: the red couch in the purple museum offers a view of the orange butternut that connects to the lime-green rug.

For the sake of continuity, designers typically recommend using one paint color on the walls that are open to each other. Speakman broke the rule and managed to pull it off, neighbor Stacey Troiola says.

"It's such a nice flow throughout the house," Troiola says. "It just makes you want to walk in the door because it's vibrant and alive in there."

To tie the vivid colors together, Speakman hangs artwork and displays dishes as part of the same intense fruit-couleur palette. And instead of hiding linens in a closet, a rustic wooden cabinet with mesh doors in the sunny yellow room shows off her gerbera

daisy-colored table runners.

One cloth is citrus green with white polka dots, which provided inspiration for the kitchen. When her husband, Larry, and their sons went away for a Boy Scout function, Speakman painted the walls of her kitchen lime green, eventually adding large white dots.

"When I came back, it was like 'wow, that's different,'" says Larry Speakman, a regional sales manager for an office product and craft supply company. "But I adjusted quickly because it fit with the rest of Becki's style. It all goes together well somehow."

Almost every room of the house contains saturated color. The exceptions are Larry Speakman's gray office, the couple's gray master bedroom and a beige guest bedroom. Bright colors bring energy to living spaces, the Speakmans agree. But more neutral tones make sleeping areas calmer.

To make the colors of accessories and walls pop, Speakman uses black or white furniture. (One of the main selling points of the house, which they bought two years ago, was the all-white kitchen cabinetry.) In the family room, the television armoire is painted black; the sofa is upholstered in black fabric with white piping and the area rug is black-and-white checks.

Last year when her husband and sons again went out of town, Speakman painted the pine trestle kitchen table black and tiled the top with black and white squares. She likes to set the table using colorful linens with black or white dishes, or black tablecloths with red or yellow dishes. Pat Chapman, a friend of Speakman's mother, attended a birthday luncheon in her honor where tomato basil soup was ladled into huge black mugs and the rest of the meal was served in bright-colored dishes.

"It looked so delightful," says Chapman, a Prairie Village, Kan., resident and volunteer at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. "The chairs are painted different colors. It was all very imaginative and fun. The colors are a needed pick-me-up after the holidays — they lift everyone's spirits."

Sure, Speakman says her style often gets compared to others': "cute" product artist Mary Engelbreit and home decor



A COLORFUL MOBILE adorns the alcove in the entryway to Becki Speakman's home.

company Mackenzie-Childs because of the black-and-white checks prominent in their designs, and Dr. Seuss because of the whimsy and candy colors. But Speakman goes for a simpler look that mixes rustic and modern furniture against a colorful backdrop. Her self-described theme is "fresh and funky."

Speakman's main influence comes from her parents, who instilled in her the confidence to take risks. That meant playing the violin, taking up macramé, starting a craft fair in California and founding a business. Her father, an architect, inspired her design sensibilities, including trying out new paint colors.

For example, Speakman does not like the color purple. But she painted the music room that grape-gum shade because it coordinated with the dishes, glass and artwork she displayed in adjoining rooms. Her bold attitude has influenced friends and family to be more daring in their own



BRIGHT COLORS and vibrant blacks and whites provide contrast in Becki Speakman's dining room, top. A bedroom, above, belonging to one of her sons.

homes, covering vanilla, beige and powder pink walls with more vibrant colors. "I'm just never afraid of what the outcome is," she says. "It's nothing that can't be changed if it doesn't work out."

See FUNKY, Page 2

Party On!



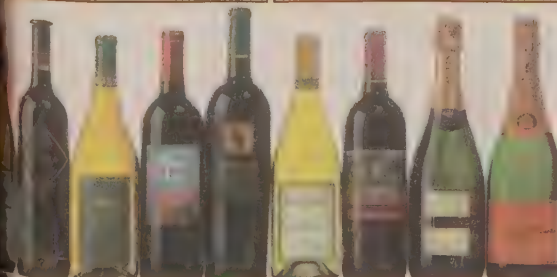
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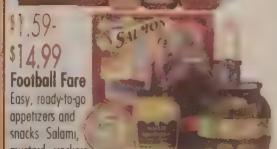
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Funky

FROM PAGE 1

Style notes

Who: Becki Speakman, Overland Park, Kan.

Profession: Owner and designer of lines of home decorating products and scrapbook supplies

Favorite colors: Gerbera daisy colors such as orange and yellow

Advice on adding color inside a neutral house: For those who are nervous about bold colors, start with a child's room or a study. Those areas are more forgiving than public rooms.

How vivid color makes her feel: Uplifted and energetic

Frequented stores: Online: Chiasso (www.chiasso.com), Crate & Barrel (www.crateandbarrel.com),

MoMA Store (www.momastore.org)

Thoughts on color

"Once you've introduced color into your surroundings, you'll never be able to live without it."

"Tricia Guild on Color" by London designer Tricia Guild (Rizzoli International Publications Inc., \$35)

"Once our eyes have allowed us to experience a color, it is everything else about ourselves that determines the meaning we attach to it."

"Designer's Color Manual" by Tom Fraser (Chronicle Books, \$30)

"I think people feel comfortable with the neutral colors from the usual stores. But I can't find a couch that's bright red enough — they're all cranberry. So I get mine reupholstered."

— Becki Speakman, product designer

Feline facilities that would please even the most persnickety

BY KIM BOATMAN

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Ever notice what's noticeably absent on the pages of your favorite shelter magazine? Just where, in those beautifully appointed homes, are the kitty litter boxes?

And just what are those of us who don't grace the pages of glossy magazines supposed to do with these necessary but ugly and occasionally unpleasant fixtures?

About 73 million cats deign to live in homes in the United States. Where there are cats, there must be litter boxes. But just how to reconcile an unsightly litter box with Arts and Crafts, modern or any sort of decor is one of the great mysteries of the universe.

It so bugged cartoonist Scott Adams that he has included a litter box room in the virtual house he created for his Dilbert character. Award-winning contractor Kacey Fitzpatrick included a "cat zoo" room with special venting for the litter box when she remodeled her Los Altos, Calif., home.

San Jose veterinarian Dr. Jill Hoffman had a woodworker construct a custom cabinet to house her litter boxes, complete with built-in storage and a place for food and water on top, not to mention the step that enables her "fat cats" to get to their meals. "My custom-built cabinet is pretty neat," she says.

Litter boxes annoy the rest of us enough that there is a thriving business in litter-box decor. Former San Franciscan Barbara Cartun, whose feline furniture company is based in Bisbee, Ariz., has sold about 6,000 of her custom cabinets in the last five years. One of her top-of-the-line cabinets costs \$650, complete with stained glass window. James Harris has two shops working in the Los Angeles area, turning out as many as 80 wooden litter box cabinets a month.

In yet another measure of desperation for those of us with cats, one company is offering a litter box cover masquerading as a planter.

Home decor, it turns out, is capable of thinking outside the box.

Accommodations

Before you get too carried away in planning new, stylish accommodations for your cat's litter box, keep in mind that cats can be persnickety about their, um, facilities.

"Cats can be very finicky regarding litter boxes," says Dr. Jill Hoffman, a veterinarian with Camden Pet Hospital in San Jose.

The presence of a lid, location, litter type and cleaning can be factors, Hoffman says. In general, she

recommends considering these factors:

Easy access: Cats, particularly kittens and older cats, need to be able to get in and out of the box with ease.

Coverage: Some cats like privacy, while others prefer fresh air.

Litter type: Hoffman prefers clumping cat litter. She recommends Everfresh litter with activated charcoal. "Remember that a cat's sense of smell is probably a thousand times ours. I don't think most cats like scented litters or dusty litters."

Frequent cleaning: Once daily is a minimum.

The number of boxes: The rule of thumb is to keep one more litter box than you have cats.

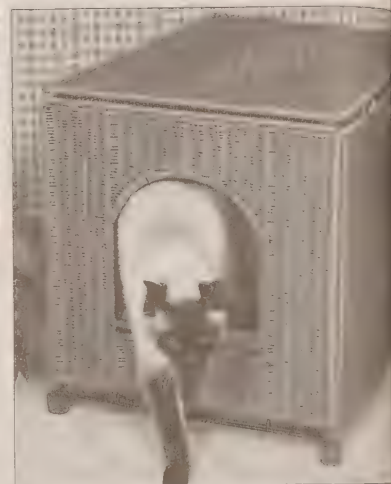
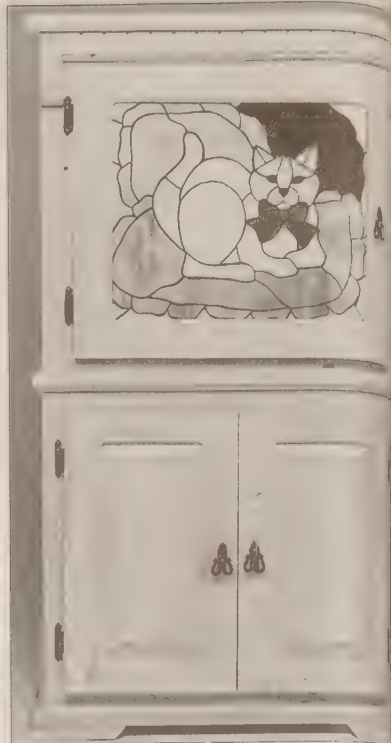
Placement: Think about convenient access, quiet and an appropriate distance from where you feed your cat.



SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

THE HIDDEN LITTER POTTY

Planter, above, is both a planter and litter box. A Hidy-Tidy litter box, top right, is also a piece of furniture. Prices range from \$290 to \$650. A faux rattan and wicker litter box cover, left, produced by Jeff Simpson's company.



SHANE KEYSER/KANSAS CITY STAR

BECKI SPEAKMAN relaxes on her red sofa in her home.

Dogs come when they're called; cats take a message and get back to you later.

—Mary Bly

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NATIONAL BEEF COOK-OFF
DENVER — Is your family always raving about that favorite recipe of yours? Do they come running when they smell the aroma of your great American beef dishes? Then it's time to enter your "skill-lets" in the National Beef Cook-Off. Family chefs are urged to submit their entries by March 31.

On behalf of the Cattlemen's Board and the Federation of Beef Councils, the American National Cattlemen's Inc. are joining with Albertsons to promote the 2005 Cook-Off.

Nearly three decades, the Cook-Off has been America's premier beef-cooking contest. The search for the \$50,000 "Grand Prize" will culminate at the Cook-Off in Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 19-21. Twenty national finalists will compete for the prize and eight other cash prizes — with more than \$100,000 in total.

This year the Cook-Off is focusing on the passion Americans have for beef and the special times shared when families enjoy dishes together. To underscore the connection beef has with the Cook-Off is introducing a "Family Favorites" category, which showcases original recipes that families are enjoying during the week or for a special occasion.

Market basket
Choose from a list of beef cuts, five listed market basket ingredients, and no more than two

"wild card" ingredients to make a main dish recipe. Recipe must total eight ingredients or less, including beef and garnish (salt, regular ground black pepper, cooking spray and water are not included). All ingredients other than beef must be nationally available and not brand specific. Recipe preparation and cook time must be 45 minutes or less (marinating time not included).

Grilled beef

Includes grilled beef main dish recipes. Recipe must include eight ingredients or less, including beef and garnish (salt, regular ground black pepper, cooking spray and water not included). All ingredients other than beef must be nationally available and not brand specific. Recipe preparation and cook time must be 45 minutes or less (marinating time not included).

Family favorites

Includes beef recipes entrants' families enjoy eating during the week or for a special occasion or get together. Recipe must include eight ingredients or less, including beef and garnish (salt, regular ground black pepper, cooking spray and water not included). All ingredients other than beef must be nationally available and not brand specific. Recipe preparation and cook time must be 45 minutes or less (marinating time not included).

"Inspired by" beef recipes

Includes entrants' own original creative beef recipe that is an adaptation from another inspiring recipe

from a friend or family member, a specific restaurant dish entrants have tasted, or a recipe published in a specific cookbook or culinary publication. Recipe must include eight ingredients or less, including beef and garnish (salt, regular ground black pepper, cooking spray and water not included).

All ingredients other than beef must be nationally available and not brand specific. Recipe preparation and cook time must be 45 minutes or less (marinating time not included). Entrants must send both the original recipe along with the recipe that inspired it. Entrants must also include the inspiring recipe's name, friend or family member's name, the restaurant and city from which it originated, or the name, author and date of publication of the published recipe.

A complete version of the Cook-Off rules is available at the Cook-Off's official Web site, www.beefcookoff.org. Contestants can enter their beef recipes through the Web site or send via U.S. mail to: National Beef Cook-Off Entries, ANCW, PO Box 3881, Englewood, CO 80155. The deadline for sending in entries is March 31, 2005. Entrants must be at least 18-years of age by March 31, 2005, and a legal resident of the U.S. or Puerto Rico.

The 20 finalists will be notified in May to win the trip to Rapid City to compete Sept. 19-21 for the nine prizes totaling \$110,000. Beside the grand-prize winner, the winner of each of the categories will win \$10,000 and the runner-up will receive \$5,000.

Home inspection checklist — know your home inside and out

More than 43 million Americans are expected to buy, sell or relocate their homes each year, and a professional home inspection is a major step on the path to purchasing that home.

A thorough inspection can identify problems or damage to the property prior to closing, allowing the buyer the opportunity to request that the owner make repairs, to renegotiate the selling price, or in some situations, to decline purchase of the home.

The first thing you need to do is hire an experienced, licensed home inspector to carefully inspect the home you have selected.

The following list of items that should be carefully checked out can be found on a new Web site launched by The Home Depot, www.homedepotmoving.com:

Appliances

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Oven
Refrigerator/freezer
Dishwasher
Compactor
Disposal
Washer/dryer

Kitchen

Cabinets
Drawers
Countertops
Floor
Electric outlets
Lighting

Bath(s)

Sink
Tub

Shower
Toilet(s)
Faucets
Floor
Tiled walls
Shower door
Medicine cabinet
Lighting
Ventilation
Window(s)

Walls and ceilings

Nail pops
Seams
Wallpaper
Water stains
Cracks
Settlement
Decay
Trim
Window locks
Interior doors

Floors

Hardwood
Carpet
Vinyl
Tile
Surface finish
Condition

Heating, ventilation, air conditioning

Central HVAC system
Age, condition
Adequacy
Operating efficiency
Thermostats (#)
Individual room controls

Service history, vendor
Window air conditioners

Electrical systems

System adequacy
Outlets by room
Light switches
Door bells
Exhaust fan(s)
Exterior lighting
Intercom

Home exterior

Roof
Siding
Windows
Exterior shutters
Exterior doors
Steps, stairs
Railings
Porches
Deck(s)
Walks
Underground sprinkler
Lawn condition
Shrubs, trees
Drainage
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Garage door
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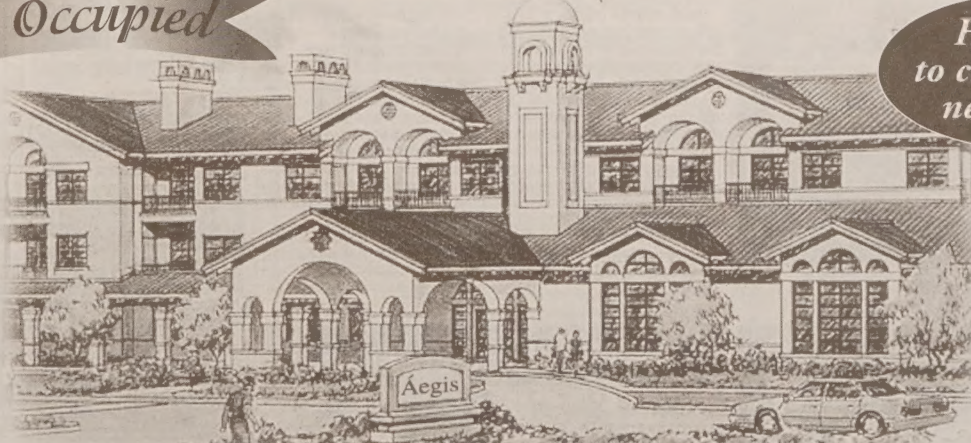
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Retired executive teaches himself to cook, then writes a cookbook for beginners

BY CATHY THOMAS
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Some might get by with frozen meals. Others might hire a cook or rely on restaurant fare and takeout. But not Tom de Paolo. It wouldn't be his style. It would not have quenched his curiosity. Or satisfied his palate memories.

When his beloved wife, Derelys, died three years ago, de Paolo, 81, taught himself to cook. Then, he wrote a cookbook, "The Suddenly Single Chef" (Xlibris, \$24.99), to help other beginners. His whimsical oil-painted illustrations adorn the cover and inside pages. (Oil painting is another skill he taught himself. He took it up after retiring from a long marketing career with J. Walter Thompson Advertising and the Disneyland Resort.)

I joined the cook-author-artist at his 1927 beachfront home in Laguna Beach, Calif., on a recent rain-soaked day. He'd agreed to cook an easy dish or two. He said it sounded like fun.

"I'd been shopping with my wife's cooking," he explained, sitting at the dining table with his back to a window showcasing the sky above Thousand Steps Beach. Below, drenched palm trees dotted the white sand at the base of steep serpentine carved-in-the-cliff steps.

"She could cook anything. She was Spanish, and although she cooked Hispanic dishes, her cooking was eclectic. She used some recipes but often said she was cooking by the seat of her pants."

De Paolo said that his pampered palate rebelled when he tried to live on ready-made stuff. Determined, he started his culinary journey.

"I read the food sections, pored over cookbooks my wife had used, watched the Food Channel," he said. "I took notes and stole from one recipe, putting it with another."

He worked his way through simple recipes before tackling his wife's recipe for coq au vin and cassoulet. He started with a frittata, an Italian-style omelet that doesn't require folding, flipping or stuffing.

"I cooked the frittata sort of from a recipe, but at the same time, I made it up as I cooked it... adding bacon and mushrooms; it was delicious and I felt terrific," he touted, holding his thumb upright.

"When I finished, I said to myself, that's a helluva dish, Tom. And I made a toast to the cat with a glass of wine."

But on this day, Bianca the cat steered clear of the crowded kitchen as he poached salmon with dill sauce for the video cam-

era. We stood facing the vintage Western-Holly range, a four-burner workhorse with peekaboo porthole windows on the two oven doors below. A chorus line of colorful ceramic figures lined the ledge above the stove: horses, dogs and angels. Many were crafted by de Paolo in his teens, and others were created by his three children.

As he worked his way through the preparation, cooking the salmon fillet and grilling fresh asparagus in a grill pan, it became obvious that de Paolo is pragmatic, not picknicky.

The food was simple. The fish was topped with a mixture of melted butter and dried dill. The al dente asparagus stalks, striped with side-by-side caramelized grill marks, were topped with balsamic vinegar.

There weren't many dirty dishes to clean.

He used store-bought microwaveable Uncle Ben's Ready Rice to accompany the salmon, explaining that he has had trouble mastering rice from scratch. But rice wasn't his only stumbling block. He confessed that a potato exploded the first time he tried to bake one.

In the early days of television in the '50s, de Paolo became involved with producing shows as well as commercials. He'd be involved with all types of tasks, including script writing and casting. Back then, the advertising agency would buy a show for a client and had control over much of its content.

One of those shows was a pioneer cooking show with Grace Lawson. The client was Kraft Foods. "Grace was phenomenal," he said with a smile. "The shows were live, and for the commercials, we'd set up three tables with a dish in different stages (of completion). We'd have a camera on each table, and she'd move from one to the next. We were learning."

De Paolo's life has been richly seasoned with an abundance of learning opportunities.

"Tom reveals himself in layers," said friend Nancy Milby (executive director and founder of Laguna Culinary Arts cooking school), who stopped by to make chocolate souffles for dessert. "When you first meet him he appears to be a simple guy. But he has lived one of the most colorful lives of anyone I've ever met. Today, he told me for the first time that he'd met Howard Hughes."

De Paolo confirmed that as a child, playing with his friends in the streets in front of his family's Los Feliz home, he encountered

Hughes on several occasions when the aviator was courting a starlet in the neighborhood.

"He would drive up in his Duesenberg and throw coins at us. He'd yell, 'Hey, kids, have some fun,'" he said.

There are so many stories. For starters, his father, Peter de Paolo, was a famous race-car driver and won the Indianapolis 500 in 1925.

Wine has been a big part of his life. As a child he wasn't impressed when he tasted his Italian grandfather's homemade wine by the thimbleful.

Later he changed his mind, declaring Zinfandel his favorite. He inherited his uncle's vineyard in the Napa Valley, which he later sold, deciding to remain in Laguna. He includes wine suggestions with each dish in "The Suddenly Single Chef."

When I commented on the diversity of scenery viewed from his windows, he told me that while he was producing a TV wildlife show 30 years ago, the beginning and ending footage was often shot at his South Laguna Beach home. The show's host didn't accompany the crew on their worldwide shoots, so they figured they could film him next to the palm trees on the beach if the setting was supposed to be a Pacific Island or maybe a shoreline in India. And his Spanish-tiled courtyard looked like it could be just about anywhere if shot at the right angle.

Soon de Paolo's second book will be rolling off the presses. It's a cookbook for children, "Sheff Cooks for Kids" (Xlibris, \$13.99). With Milby's help, he took a dozen 8-year-olds to the Laguna Culinary Arts Kitchen to have them test the book's recipes. He had a ball.

And his third book, "Laguna Cooks," will be completed by summer. It will include recipes from local restaurants as well as some from him and some from Milby.

The artwork will be pure de Paolo — his oil-painted landscapes of Laguna Beach. Full of color, light and energy.

POACHED SALMON WITH DILL SAUCE

1 (4-ounce) salmon fillet (without skin)
1 teaspoon vegetable oil
1 teaspoon dried dill
3 tablespoons butter

Cook's notes: Tom de Paolo likes to serve this dish with rice. He says that for some reason, he has a hard time getting rice to cook to his liking. He uses prepared rice that's microwaved in the package. He pours a small amount of the dill-butter sauce on the salmon, then pours the remainder on the rice.

Place 2 inches of water in 10- or 12-inch skillet (with a lid). Bring to boil uncovered on medium-high heat. Carefully slide salmon into skillet and cover. Reduce heat to simmer and cook 15 minutes. Cut into it to make sure it is cooked to your liking. Remove from water and place on plate.

Place butter and dill in small, microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high until butter melts. Pour over salmon (see cook's notes).

Makes 1 serving.
Source: Adapted from "The Suddenly Single Chef" by Tom de Paolo.



TOM DEPAOLO, of Laguna Beach, learned to cook after his wife died. Since then, he has written a cookbook and a children's book.

GRILLED ASPARAGUS

1 bunch asparagus, tough bottom portion of stalk removed
Olive oil
Balsamic vinegar

Cook's notes: Green onions (trimmed), mushrooms (skewered), red bell pepper (seeds removed, cut into 1-inch wide strips), or yellow squash and zucchini (cut into 1/2-inch-wide slices) can also be grilled in the same manner.

Place asparagus on serving plate. Toss with enough olive oil to generously coat.

Grill on heated barbecue until tender-crisp, turning once or twice. Cooking times will vary depending on thickness of asparagus. Thin stalks will probably be ready after about 3 minutes. OR, heat grill pan on medium-high heat. Add asparagus in single layer and cover. Cook about 4-5 minutes. Turn asparagus; cover and cook until tender-crisp, about 4-6 more minutes.

Return asparagus to serving plate (plate will have a little residual olive oil on it, but that's good). Drizzle with balsamic vinegar.

Makes 3 to 4 servings.
Source: Adapted from "The Suddenly Single Chef" by Tom de Paolo.

BACON-MUSHROOM FRITTATA

3 strips bacon
4-5 small mushrooms
2 green onions, trimmed or 2 slices yellow onion
2 eggs
1 tablespoon milk or half-and-half
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
Pinch dried tarragon
Salt and pepper to taste

Cook's notes: Tom de Paolo says he likes to accompany this frittata with a piece of buttered toast and a leafy romaine salad dressed with olive oil, balsamic vinegar and a dash of dried thyme.

Cut bacon into 1/2-inch pieces and separate with fingers. Finely dice onion. Cut mushrooms into fourths.

In 7- to 12-inch skillet, cook bacon on medium heat until slightly browned, about 4 minutes. Drain off half grease. Add onion to ba-

con; cook until softened, about 3 minutes. Add mushrooms and cook until browned, 3 minutes more.

Meanwhile, break eggs in bowl with milk or half-and-half. Whisk until frothy. Add vinegar, tarragon, salt and pepper. Whisk to combine.

Gently pour eggs over ingredients in skillet. Reduce heat to medium and cook until edges begin to set, about 3 minutes, then cover. Cook until eggs have solidified and puff a bit, about 4 to 5 minutes.

Makes 1 serving.
Source: Adapted from "The Suddenly Single Chef" by Tom de Paolo.

EL POLLO TEQUILA

3 or 4 chicken tenders (sold in pack; freeze rest later)

Salt and pepper
1 tablespoon olive oil
1/4 cup tequila
2 teaspoons fresh lime juice
1 teaspoon butter
Season chicken with salt and pepper.

Heat oil in 12-inch skillet on medium heat, until skillet is hot but not smoking.

Brown chicken in oil about 1 1/2 minutes each on both sides. Remove skillet from heat. Add tequila. Using a long match and diverting your face (and hair), ignite tequila. Return to heat when flames subside.

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Three major forces are changing the mix of home buyers

BY JOHN HANDLEY
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Three powerful demographic forces will shape housing in the future, determining who will buy homes, where they'll buy them and how they will be like.

One demographic expert calls the trends the "Browning of America" and the "Graying of America." The third force will be the coming of age of the children of Baby Boomers born between 1947 and 1964, or Generation Y.

Most housing growth will be driven in the future by immigrants and Hispanics, predicted James Johnson, professor at the Kenan-Flagler Business School of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

This will result in non-white residents rising to almost half of the U.S. population by 2050, Johnson said at a seminar in New York sponsored by the Urban Land Institute, a non-profit real estate research and education organization.

The graying of America will occur as the 78 million Baby Boomers age out of the labor market, propelling a boom in retirement housing.

Just beginning is the rise of Generation Y. Also called Echo Boomers, this generation of 73 million is turning 21 at a rate of 4 million a year. Gen Y will make up 25 percent of the U.S. population in 2015, Johnson said.

First, though, home construction must get a boost from immigration, Johnson noted that 10 million immigrants will reach their peak home-buying years in the next decade.

The impact has been felt in the Chicago area.

"Immigrants are the major source of population growth in Chicago. Some 45,000 immigrants arrive here each year," said Christopher Shaxted, executive vice president of Lakewood Homes in Hoffman Estates.

"Immigrants have been driving the housing boom here. As high as 90 percent of first-time buyers are immigrants," Shaxted added.

There's been an uptick in ethnic buyers — a doubling since a year ago, said Mark Malouf, chief operating officer of Montalbano Homes in Oak Brook, Ill.

But buying can be a stretch for immigrants. "It may take a whole family to buy a house," said Bert Meyn, vice president sales and marketing for the Chicago division of Ryland Homes.

"Ethnic buyers are looking for a family component, maybe a four-master for aging parents, the children upstairs," said John Carroll, president of Kirk Corp. in Oakwood, Ill.

Johnson notes that as the U.S. population becomes more diverse, housing will change. "The accordion effect is one possibility, especially Hispanics," he said. "It is an expandable house that can be added instead of moving. Also, there's interest in creating a Mexican-style house with more rooms that are smaller in square footage."

There are real opportunities for those who understand what's important to ethnic families," Johnson said. "Developers must learn to cus-

tomize houses to satisfy ethnic and cultural needs. This housing should be near churches and recreation, including soccer fields."

Real estate development hot spots will be in the South and the West, he said.

"The South is emerging as a major destination for immigration, as well as the West. We're in the midst of a massive geographic distribution of foreign-born, especially Hispanics," Johnson said. "Employers are attracting Hispanics to low-cost labor areas. North Carolina has become the new melting pot."

"Banks and real estate firms that target minority customers stand to gain over the next decade. There will be lasting changes in preferences in housing because of the emphasis among Hispanics on the family and the extended family," Johnson said.

Among the many immigrants who have bought new houses in the Chicago area are Jose and Miriam Martinez. Natives of El Salvador, they live with their 1-year-old son, Jason, in a three-bedroom townhouse at Silverstone Lake in Carpentersville.

"I came to this country 12 years ago, and now I'm a U.S. citizen," said Jose Martinez.

He is employed as a machine operator in Hanover Park, while his wife works as a packaging operator in Schaumburg.

"You dream of a house. It's much better to own than rent," said Miriam Martinez.

The Martinez family is typical of Hispanic immigrants who are changing the face of America.

"The U.S. will be the second largest Hispanic nation in the world after Mexico by 2040," J. Walker Smith, president of Yankelevich Partners Inc., told the meeting of the Urban Land Institute.

The changing racial makeup of the United States is reflected in Gen Y.

"Ethnically diverse, Generation Y is 38 percent non-white," said Elizabeth Gillespie, vice president of marketing in Atlanta for Jones Lang LaSalle Americas Inc., a real estate firm. She spoke at an Urban Land seminar.

"Generation Y will change the economic landscape of this country just as their Baby Boomer parents did," Gillespie said.

"Above all, Gen Y is tech-savvy. Their lifestyle is all about technology. They are consumed by entertainment and accomplished at multitasking," Gillespie added.

These techies, already comfortable with online shopping, are sure to use the Internet to research their future residential purchases.

"There are already telltale signs that is happening," said Malouf, the Montalbano COO. "Today's billboards advertising subdivisions don't tell how to get there, but they do give the Web site."

Pamela Hamilton, senior vice president of Centre City Development Corp., the public agency for downtown San Diego's redevelopment, described what Gen Y wants in housing.

"Location is important; they want to be where the action is, like when they were in college. They want to be near coffee shops, clubs and shopping," she said.

"Primarily, they are singles. Units must be affordable. Smaller units of 500 to 900 square feet are OK with them. They like lofts with exposed concrete, high ceilings, open floor plans and bold colors."

"High-speed Internet is essential. Half the buyers will be women, so security is important. Luxury high-rises don't attract this group. That's partly because of price, but also because high-rise condos reinforce privacy, and this group is very social. Also, high-rise design is not what they want," Hamilton said.

Three recent condo buyers in Chicago closely follow these characteristics.

Three friends bought units on the second floor at Van Buren Lofts, the conversion of an industrial building at 1224 W. Van Buren St. on the Near West Side. They are Lisa Ledonne, 24, a nurse at Rush University Medical Center; Erin Duckhorn, 23, a support specialist for an asset management company; and Natalie West, 24, a real estate sales agent.

All now live in the suburbs with their parents until their lofts are ready for occupancy next summer or fall.

"We're all friends and wanted to be together," said Ledonne, who attended Marian Catholic High School in Chicago Heights with West.

Ledonne described how her attitudes differ from those of her Boomer parents. "I'd rather e-mail than call on the phone. I don't watch TV, but my parents do. I'm usually on the Internet."

Duckhorn takes the credit for talking the others into buying at Van Buren Lofts. "I wanted new construction, and the West Loop is a good location. And it's near Greentown."

Her decision to buy has backing at home. "Our parents have seen the boom in real estate and how property values have appreciated," Duckhorn said.

She admits to one typical Gen Y trait — multitasking. "I put on makeup and do bills while driving. My mother would kill me if she knew."

West acknowledges that most in her age group are renting apartments. "But after a couple of years working, I decided to do the smart thing and buy," she said. "My parents were shocked at the prices. They thought \$29,990 just for parking was outrageous."

Most of the one-bedroom-plus-den units at Van Buren Lofts are priced in the \$200,000s.

"I wanted to be in the city. I'm not ready for the suburbs," she said.

West added that her generation likes all the best things. "We go for the hardwood floors, the stainless steel appliances, the granite countertops. Maybe we've been spoiled. We've been exposed to nice things and want them."

"My parents have been in the same house for 28 years, but my generation is addicted to change. I'll probably stay in the loft a couple of years and then move," West said.

While members of Generation Y are buying their first homes, some Boomers may be buying their last.

"But it's a mistake to think that Boomers will ever retire," said Smith of Yankelevich. "Two-thirds to 80 percent say they will work in retirement. Work is important to them. The meaning of life comes through work. Boomers are redefining what it means to get old."

While the dream of the Boomers' parents was to retire in the Sun Belt, most Boomers will likely age in place.

In the Chicago area, an increasing number of retirement developments have sprung up.

"There are enough Boomers to support all of Del Webb's communities in the Chicago area," said Karen Brunhofer, Chicago-area president of the division of Pulte Homes. "These are people who want to stay in town because of family and friends, rather than go to Arizona or Florida."

Sharon and Larry Senzel moved in September to Carillon at Heatherstone, an age-restricted development built by Cambridge Homes in far north suburban Beach Park.

"We're retired Baby Boomers," said Sharon Senzel. "We had been thinking about selling our 2,700-square-foot home in Gurnee, and when we came here, we said, 'This is it.'"

"It's age-restricted," she continued, "but also diverse because we're surrounded by townhouses and single-family homes of Heatherstone that are not age-restricted."

The Senzels have a daughter living in Hainesville and a son serving with the Marines in Iraq.

Sharon Senzel would agree with the view that Boomers differ from their children: "Generation Y

is totally different," she said. "They're more adventurous, not as conservative."

Despite the popularity of age-restricted retirement developments in the Chicago area, one expert believes many Boomers are not sold on the concept.

"Preliminary evidence from focus groups with Boomers suggests that they have a problem with conventional, large-scale retirement communities," said Vic-

tor Regnier, professor of architecture and gerontology at the University of Southern California.

"There's the sense that this is my father's retirement community," Regnier said, referring to age-restricted developments. "It's not hip enough for me."

"Boomers want something invented for them. They think the sun rises and sets over their generation."

Generation Y would probably disagree.



SHARON AND LARRY

SENZEL, top, decided to buy a home in an age-restricted development in Beach Park, Ill.

Jose and Miriam Martinez, middle, with their son Jason, 13 months, are shown at their home in Carpentersville, Ill.

Erin Duckhorn, from left, Natalie West and Lisa Ledonne, right, pose in a model unit at the condo building where all three women purchased lofts.



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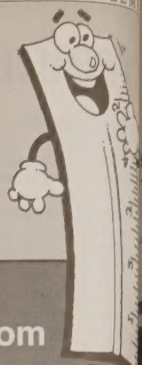
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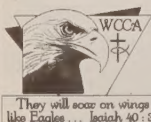


Kristen Wheeler and her mare, Taylor Made, sharing moments together on Mt. Diablo.

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